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Herald international Cribune.

Beijing Blasts

Satellite Deal

It Warns of 'Negative Effect'

On Trade Between Countries

By Michael Laris

BEIJING - The government Thursday blasted

the Clinton administration for its "groundless"

decision to block the \$600 million sale of tele-

communications satellites to a Chinese-led con-

sortium, saying the move would have a "negative effect" on trade ties between the two nations.

An official at China Telecommunications

Broadcast Satellite Corp., the main Chinese partner in the Singapore-hased telecommunications venture that had ordered the satellites, declined to

say where the group would place its new orders

American industry officials said they assumed

The Clinton administration said the decision to

one of several competing European companies

would seize the opportunity to sell the satellites

reject the sale of the Hughes Electronics Corp.

commercial satellite, initially approved in 1996, came after Asia-Pacific Mobile Telecommuni-

cations, the Singapore-hased consortium, took on

more Chinese investors with direct links to the

The latest dispute with China comes with Sec-retary of State Madeleine Albright set to arrive in

Beijing on Monday for talks with Chinese leaders

as part of an effort to improve a Chinese-American relationship that has slipped backward after

President Bill Clinton's summit meeting here last

June. That trip was widely hailed at the time by

needed for the wireless telephone network.

for satellites.

U.S. for Ban on

Airbus Loses \$200 Million Because of Price War

Planemaker Seeks Ties With Mitsubishi for New Business in Japan

> By Tom Buerkle ional Herald Tribune

LONDON - The global price war on LONDON—The global price war on commercial aircraft took its toll on Airbus Industrie last year, causing the European aircraft-huilding consortium to post an effective loss of about \$200 million, British Aerospace PLC, one of the consortium's four partners, said

But the underlying health of Airbus was portrayed as relatively robust by British Aerospace, Europe's biggest

Boeing, after a loss, vows to impose self-discipline. Page 11.

arms maker, which reported a significant rise in profit on its Airbus work because of a 20 percent increase in aircraft deliveries.

British Aerospace said that despite good sales, Airbus had been hit by intense competitive pressures and, "as a result of these pressures, incurred an operating loss in 1998."

Separately, Airbus confirmed that it was holding discussions with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. of Japan and other companies to supply parts for some of its aircraft, a move that could sharpen its competition with Boeing.

A link could help Airbus increase tales in Asia and eventually lead to Mitsubishi taking a share of the risk in developing a 600-seat jumbo jet that Airbus hopes to totroduce in 2005, industry executives and analysts said.

Mitsuhishi currently supplies parts, including doors and tail cones, to Boe-

In London, British Aerospace executives also defended their recent £7.8 billion (\$12.32 billion) acquisition of Marconi Electronic Systems. John Weston, chief executive of British Aerospace, said the enlarged group's size and breadth of expertise left it well placed to play a leading role in future defense consolidation.

1.4. 30.42

But Mr. Weston said he was "a little surprised" by the negative U.S. reaction to the deal, which appears to have dealt a setback to British Aerospace's hopes of finding an American partner.

John Hamre, a U.S. deputy defense secretary, said last week the merger was "very damaging" to the prospects of trans-Atlantic defense cooperation.

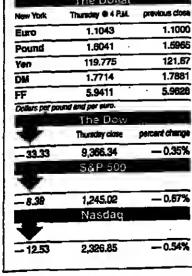
He also acknowledged that the deal had postponed the prospect of a merger with the leading German and French aerospace groups, although they said they would pursue closer ties with other European companies such as Alenia of Italy and Saab, the Swedish aircraft maker in which British Aerospace holds a 35 percent stake.

"There's real scope for doing some other husiness in Europe," Mr. Weston

British Aerospace said it incurred an operating loss of £25 million last year through its 20 percent share in Airbus, which implies an operating loss of £125 million for the consortium. Airbus is a loose grouping of economic interest under French law and does not report

der French squeeze because it buys parts from its

See AIRBUS, Page 4



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A soldier of the Kosovo Liberation Army standing guard near Pristing on Thursday.

NATO Troops Move Closer To Kosovo to Counter Serbs

Milosevic Is Warned Against Launching Offensive

By Joseph Fitchett International Herald Tribsane

PARIS - NATO moved forces closer to reported that Serbian troops, backed by scores explaining that the alliance would respond of tanks, were massing just across the border.

That position would enable the Serbs, if they chose, to launch a lightning offensive against ethnic Albanian guerrilla strongholds in northern Kosovo if peace negotiations fail — or possibly even during the recess in the talks. Warning President Slobodan Milosevic of

Yngoslavia not to take military advantage of the pause in peace diplomacy, both Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and General Wesley Clark said that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was ready to retaliate if the Serbian In Washington, the Pentagon spokesman

Ken Bacon said, "We don't know why they have moved these troops or exactly what they plan to do with the troops which they have marshaled around the borders of Kosovo."

But, he said, "What is most important is that

JASPER; Texas - A 24-year-old white su-

premacist was sentenced to death Thursday for

murdering a black man by chaining him to a truck

and dragging him along a country road.

John William King will become the only white

person on death row in Texas condemned for

The 11 white jurors and their black foreman took just under three hours to render the decision,

about the same time as they took to find Mr. King

guilty on Tuesday. They convicted Mr. King of capital murder in the June death of James Byrd Jr.

rilling a black person.

the troops show restraint. It is the conduct of the troops which is much more important than the number of the troops at this stage.'

The threat of NATO air strikes remained in Kosovo on Thursday after U.S. intelligence effect, a senior French official said, in Paris, gainst any "flagrant violation" of Mr. Milosevic's promises in October to curb Serbian military actions in Kosovo and respect ceilings on his forces there. General Clark, the NATO military com-

mander, said in a speech in Spain that the alliance's reinforcements were arriving in Macedonia. From there, they could enter neighboring Kosovo in a peacekeeping role — an idea rejected by the Serbs — or as a rescue force if international verifiers were in danger.

Heavy tanks belonging to the British units designated to command peacekeeping forces started unloading Thursday in the Greek port of Salonika to be driven to Macedonia. NATO has a French-led force of 1,800 men there. In addition, more than 2,000 U.S. troops are there

See KOSOVO, Page 4

Jury Sets Death Penalty in Texas Racial Killing

Mr. Byrd's family members wiped their eyes hut declined District Judge Joe Bob Golden's offer to

address Mr. King.

As Mr. King was led from the courthonse, he was asked if he had anything to say to the Byrd

Prosecutors asked for the maximum punish-

ment, saying Mr. King would be a menace even

"By giving Mr. King a life sentence, you're giving him at least 40 years to catch a black guard,

a black nurse, a black doctor, a Jewish guard, a Jewish nurse, a Jewish doctor, or anybody else."

family. He responded with an obscenity.

U.S. Senate Assails China On Human Rights Abuses

By Brian Knowlton International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON - Amid already strained U.S.-Chinese relations, the Senate voted Thursday, 99-0, to urge President Bill Clinton to sponsor a resolution condemning China for human rights abuses when the UN Human Rights Commission meets next month in

The resolution, placed high on the Senate agenda by the majority leader, Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, came as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was preparing to leave for China on a visit with a long and

"It's important for our secretary of state to have that message when she goes to China," said Senator Tim Hutchinson, Republican of Arkansas. Mrs. Albright told a House committee Thursday said that she would bring to China "a strong message of support for international norms of respect for human rights," which she said would "come as no surprise to Beijing."

While acknowledging "sharp differences" with Beijing, however, she reiterated the U.S. policy that

the relationship with the world's most populous country was too important to be held hostage to any single issue. And she praised China for "positive steps" against weapons proliferation and toward economic reform. Beijing had played "a responsible role during the Asia financial crisis," she said. "We need to recognize progress even as we press for more."

The bipartisan vote adds to a growing wave of international protest over Chinese rights practices. Beijing began a sharp crackdown on its political foes late last year, arresting dissidents and Roman Catholic priests, moving to crush the newly forming China Democracy Party, and blocking some Internet communications.

Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, the leading Democratic sponsor, said, "The Chinese government continues to commit widespread abuses, and since the president's visit in June, has taken actions that flagrantly violate the commitments it has made to respect internationally recognized human rights.

The vote is not legally hinding. Last year Mr. Clinton ignored a similar call from Congress. But Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Wellstone and other legislators said it would make an important statement to the government in Beijing and provide comfort to dissidents.

Mrs. Albright has complained frequently about

Chinese rights practices. Last month she said the administration was "profoundly distressed" by the recent arrests of dissidents. She strove again Thursday, however, to paint the

relationship as one too important and complicated to reduce to single issues. 'Clearly, it is a multifaceted relationship that some

parts of which work and some do not," she told the House International Relations Committee. Mr. Clinton's visit to China in June was seen as a public relations success, temporarily warming the re-

lationship. But within months, tensions were re-emerg-ing over rights issues and the steadily growing U.S. trade deficit with China, the United States's largest. Earlier this month, Taiwan charged that China had deployed more than 100 new ballistic missiles in areas close to the Taiwan strait. That followed discussion in

Washington of bringing Taiwan and other parts of Asia under a U.S. missile-defense program. Mrs. Albright, asked during congressional testimony about the upcoming Geneva meeting, said that the administration had not decided whether to offer a

resolution condemning China. Mr. Clinton did not pursue a similar resolution last year, in part because of his planned visit to China in June, and because Beijing had promised changes in some policies.

See SENATE, Page 4

In deciding the sentence, jurors had to weigh

whether the murder was intentional, whether Mr.

King was a continuing threat to society, and if any

mingating factor merited the lesser punishment of

They answered yes to the first two questions;

Mr. Byrd, 49, died after he was picked np while

Two other men, Shawn Berry, 24, and

walking home from a party. After a scuffle, he

was pulled nearly three miles behind a pickup

Lawrence Brewer, 31, are awaiting trial in the

See CHINA, Page 4 Help Wanted: **Envoy to China** For Superpower

By Elizabeth Becker New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration has been unable to persuade two high-profile former members of Congress to accept a nomination as ambassador to Beijing, a sign of the daunting challenge of managing the deteriorating U.S.-China relationship. It is also a sign of the weakening condition of a

president in the second half of his last term. At a time when Congress is investigating China's acquisition of U.S. military secrets, questioning

China's exploding trade surplus with the United States and criticizing Beijing's human rights record, the administration's overtures for the ambassadorship have been rejected by at least half a dozen candidates. Former Representative Lee Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat who retired last year after a 34-year career in

Congress during which he mastered foreign affairs in general and Asia in particular, was asked to take the post, according to administration officials and friends. But he begged off and chose, instead, to remain as heari of the Woodrow Wilson Center, a Washington

policy institute. Former Senator Dale Bumpers, Mr. Clinton's longtime Arkansas friend who offered oratory in defense of the president during the Senate's impeachment trial,

See ENVOY, Page 4

turned down the tentative job offer, choosing instead to

After the sentencing decision was read Thursday, Pat Hardy, the prosecuting anomey, told the jury. killing of Mr. Byrd.

LANDECK, Austria - More than a dozen bodies were found in the snows of Alpine avalanches on Thursday, but in Austria and France rescuers were able to report unlikely success: A 4-year-old boy who had been thought clinically dead suddenly revived, and three skiers who had been trapped for nine days in a makeshift igloo 3,000 meters up were lifted to safety by helicopters after a weak signal from their fading cell phone was traced by France Telecom. After being buried to snow for two hours, the boy

was dug out by a trained dog in the Austrian hamlet of Valzur. Although the boy, who was not identified, had no circulation when he was found, he was resuscitated by doctors and taken to a hospital in the town of Zams. When he arrived at the hospital, he even smiled a

little," a surgeon, Alois Schranz, told the Austrian Press Agency. The boy was said to be communicating with medical workers. The three rescued French skiers were in good condition. With help, Christophe Palichleb, a 38-year-old engineer, and two brothers, Olivier and

Philippe Bourgues, both in their 30s, emerged from helicopters in the town of Pralognan walking and "They are all a bit weak, but they stood up very well," said Lieutenant Julien Boyer of the police. The men ran out of food five days ago and weathered constant arctic conditions. Doctors at the

See RESCUE, Page 5



life in prison.

no to the third.

trock, chained by his ankles.

One of the three men who survived in an igloo being helped by rescuers Thursday in Pralognan.

AGENDA

Turkey Seeks Ban On Kurdish Party

ISTANBUL (NYT) - A senior prosecutor has asked the Constitutional Court to prevent the country's pro-Kurdish political party from participating in national elec-nons scheduled for April.

The prosecutor, Vural Savas, has been asserting for months that the party, People's Democracy, works secretly with guerrillas loval to Abdullah Ocalan, the rebel leader who was captured two weeks ago in Kenya and is now under heavy guard in a Turkish prison. He was allowed to see defense lawyers Thursday for the first time since his arrest. Leaders of the party have long

denied that it is connected to the guerrilla movement. The case is not likely to be de-

cided before the elections.

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No Papers' Life Brings Folding Money to Rural Migrants

By Elisabeth Rosenthal

New York Times Service EUING - Standing on a

PAGF

sidewalk amid a small mountain of suitcases and gifts. Wu Liuyi mentally girded herself to board the rickety. unheated hus that would deliver her. two and a half days later, to her house and preteen daughter near the south-eastern city of Wenzhou.

Inside, two tiers of reclining seats already were crammed with the blankets, coats and food of three dozen other passengers heading home for Chinese New Year.

Miss Wu, who owns a small leather workshop in Beijing, seemed illsuited for the journey in a hlue hlazer and black heels. But ever since she and her husband left their farming village in Zhejiang Province for fac-tory work in Beijing in 1992, this daunting pilgrimage from the place where they live to a distant "home" has become a family routine.

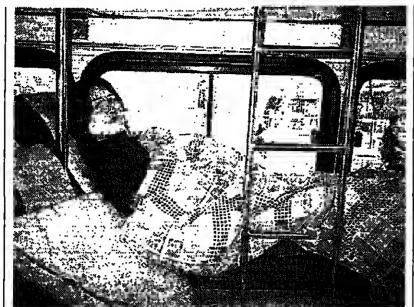
"What can you do?" she said, herding her 7-year-old son to the hus. "I have to see my daughter, and I'm taking my son home to start school

this year.

China is on the move these days, with an estimated 10 percent of the population now migrating from their official place of residence, mostly in search of better johs. Legions of young Chinese are moving one step up the job chain: Those from tiny villages move to small cities, and those from small cities move to larger ones.

But rural migrants such as Miss Wu remain outsiders in the city, with little hope of securing the coveted urban residence permits that would allow then; to huild an entirely legal life in

Registered at birth as residents of



Win Linyi settling in for the trip back to her 'home,' two and a half days away from Beijing, where she lives and works.

"The mood of the people is

rural towos, they remain off the books in cities such as Beijing, where housing, education and other social benefits are mostly state-controlled. Thus, they are not eligible for most good johs or housing subsidies, pay steep prices to enroll children in the few public schools that admit them, and cannot even register a car or hicycle.

The government allows relatively few Chinese to change their official residence each year, and most of these are well-educated people moving for government jobs of marriage.

Significant numbers of Chinese have been leaving their villages only since 1984, when the government eased somewhat its residency system. allowing people to travel for temporary jobs. The trend has snowballed

gence of privately owned factories, and a growing surplus of rural lahor. And every Chinese New Year, most of these 100 million migrants return to their homelowns, producing what Chinese demographers call the largest seasonal migration in the world.

in recent years for a variety of reasons,

including improvements in transpor-

tation and communications, the emer-

The rural migrants have hecome a fixture in Chinese cities: ragged men

tion sites and women selling snacks at street stands. They are a vast new pool of cheap labor that has allowed urban factories to prosper.

Most of the migrants are between 18 and 35 and have a junior-high education. They tend to work at unskilled, low-wage jobs in the private sector. Their movements have helped fuel economic growth in recent years, as husinesses and unskilled laborers have become increasingly willing and able to follow market demands.

The changes have made it much easier for us to hire people from across the country, and that has allowed us to expand our business," said Joseph Chen, the owner of a button factory in Qiaotou on the outskirts of Wenzhou.

Joh agencies have sprung up to channel labor across this vast nation, hut word-of-mouth often guides the flow. Xu Bin, who works in a badge factory in Wenzhou, said he had got-ten his joh through an employment agency in Boyang, his hometown in liangxi Province.

*Five years ago, a few people from my town came, and now a lot more have followed," he said. "Everyooe at home knows that this area has developed quickly.

Luo Lichun, who was tending vats of dye at another Qiaotou button factory, said she would bave been unemployed in her poor farming town in Sichuan Province. "A friend came home and told me there was good

work here," she said, "so I came, In the city, the migrants often do piecework in small factories, working more than 12 hours a day. They live together in the backs of workshops, small apartments or spare dormitories. One study of a migrant community in Beijing estimated the average living space at less than 2.1 square meters (2½ square yards) per person.

Many migrants said living conditions were far better at home. For most, the goal is simply to earn money to take home, in part because they retain strong ties to their villages and in part because of the residence-permit problems. But they also seek job experience and adventure.

"I work seven days a week," said Li Feoglian, from Sichuan Province, as she prepared to veoture out from her workshop into the streets of Beijing. "But I came because it was a new opportunity to see the world."

THE PRESENCE OF the migrant workers is transforming urban life, mixing distinct re-gional cultures but also giving rise to a rootless underclass.

Chinese cioes have been strained by the massive influx and the social troubles it is supposed to have spawned: more crime, beggars and cases of sexually transmitted disease. In the early 1990s, Beijing tried

repeatedly to expel the residents of "Zhejiang Village," a chaotic jumble of workshops and stalls in south Beijing where most migrants from the Wenzhou area, including Miss Wu, live. But each time, leather workshops, day-care centers and pungent markets selling dried shrimp, yellow wine and other Wenzhou delicacies popped hack up within months.

Today, the government seems to have made peace with the city-withina-city that has become home to 100,000 people.

They're figuring out ways to administer it rather than suppress it." said Dai Jianzhoog, a sociologist at the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences. "Through licenses and rent, the area generates a lot of income for

New Politics Bills Unpaid, Cuba Cuts Off U.S. Phones

HAVANA -- Most telephone service between Cuba and the United States was cut early Thursday because of lack of payment hy American companies in Cuba's phone company. The American companies have been

withholding funds since December pending a federal court case against the Communist nation involving relatives of four Cuban-Americans who were killed when two unarmed aircraft were she down by MiG jets north of the island on Feh. 24, 1996.

The action, which affects five of the seven Cuban-U.S. telephone circuits in operatioo, is certain to hit the husy telephone traffic between Cubans on the island and their relatives in the United States. Many of those divided families rely on phone calls as their only form of

The cutoff also restricts communications for foreign emhassies and compa-nies based in Cuba, and it represents another aggravation in the tense bilateral relacions between the two countries.

Service was cut off just after midnight. Cellular service also was in-

Callers attempting to reach the United States instead got a recorded message saying that lines were congested and asking them to call hack later.

Some calls did get through after the deadline passed, apparently because they were rerouted through third countries or onto Sprint Corp. telephone service, which was not affected.

Nevertheless, some delays or disruptions were expected to continue. Cuha's Foreign Ministry announced

last week that it supported the decision by Empresa de Telecomuoicaciones de Cuba SA, knowo as ETECSA, to cut service to the U.S. companies; AT&T Corp., MCI WorldCom Inc. and IDB Holding Corp.
Service to Sprint and a company in

Puerto Rico was maintained because both have continued to pay their hills. the Cuban government said last week.
In Florida, an AT&T spokesman said

the company was making alternate arrangements to enable its customers to

rangements to enable its customers to call into Cuba.

AT&T was urging callers to cooting dialing as normal to Cuba, but to expert, some delays or disruption in service.

In 1997, a federal judge in Miami awarded a \$187 million judgment to the

relatives of the Cuhans who were shot down. Since then, they have tried unsuccessfully to collect the money from the Cuban government. They were spurned in an effort to recover the funds from Cuban assets frozen in the United States. They then

to Cuba. That amounted to an estimated \$60 million to \$70 million in 1997. The State Department has opposed the families' case, which is being heard in U.S. District Court.

sought to tap into the money being paid

hy the U.S. telephone companies for

long-distance calls from the United States

A State Department spokesman, James Foley, said this week that the telecommunications payments could not be seized because the Cuban telephon. company was a separate entity from the government and was not legally responsible for the debts. (AP. Reuers)

Nigerians Cut Deals on Election Eve

By Norimitsu Onishi

ENUGU, Nigeria - Nigerian politics is split hy hard ethnic differences and held together hy fragile alliances, wound in the short on ideology and long on country's

Days before Nigerians vote tory of ethnic on Saturday to elect the man rivalries. who will preside over the country's first civilian gov- wound that is the maneuvering going on to deepen before the presi-

shifting fortunes of the Al- the presidency. liance for Democracy, one of

means that you can live wherever you want and the expansion of the ect-

the party won most of Enugu reports that made him ebul-State in legislative races last lient on Sunday, including Party of General Ohasanjo, Saturday. The rival, dominant party's choice of a presidenneighboring state. party's choice of a presiden- neighboring state tial candidate from outside the regioo reopened an old outrage, outright anger.

complex his-

emment in 16 years, deals are politicians for the Alliance being cut. Maybe in no place for Democracy were toiling

the three parties in Nigeria, chair at the Alliance for De-Africa's most populous coun-mocracy's headquarters here. Arthur Nwankwo, the head of A hig loser in earlier elec- the party in the southeastern

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ageot said. A pragmatic, not are exploitan unholy alliance.

said.
"Very much."
What What Mr. Nwankwo and fellow members of the Ibo other Ibo states. more furiously than here in dential election. Feeding on ethnic group here exploited southeastern Nigerta, which the region's longtime sense of was anger that one of their wueme would come up as has become the battleground ethnically motivated exclusion was angel that believe the president, so we are disappointed to the president, so we are disappointed. Some only, chance to win been rejected by the leading Arnadi, 62, a husinessman billion forture of the Al.

People's Democratic Party. Ensconced in a throne-like Instead, the party chose General Olusegun Obasanjo. 61, a Yoruha from the southgroup, the Hausa-Fulani in tions in the last two months, states, received a stream of the north. Twenty years ago, he became the country's first nilitary leader to give up

power voluntarily, winning respect here and ahroad. common presidential candidate. Olu Falae, 60, a former Political leadersare tapping finance minister and a Yoralmost nothing except a desire to win the presidency what Mr. Nwankwo described as "an unholy alli-

"It's a pragmatic alliance. not an unholy alliance." cor-rected an official who said he was not Mr. Nwankwo's political consultant hut cheer-

fully kept giving him advice. The election follows one of the most tumultuous periods in the history of Nigeria. which has been ruled by the military for all but 10 years since gaining independence Party just a few weeks ago.

The military has been from Britain in 1960.

Since the death of its longtime dictator. General Sani Abacha, in June, the country has opened up politically through reforms put into place by General Abdulsələmi Ahubakar. The military has promised to like Obasanjo is elected, he transfer power to a civilian will protect them. It will be a government on May 29.

The People's Democratic of powerful retired military officers, swept the earlier elec-tions, including this region. But over last weekend, in

Enugu State, it lost all three Senate seats and won only three of the eight races for the House of Representatives. The Alliance for Democracy and the All People's Party

"We all hoped that Ek-Silvanus who previously backed General Ohasanjo's party. None of the presidential or

vice-presidential candidates west who is popular with Ni- is Ibo. hut Mr. Amadi said he geria's third main ethnic took consolation in the possibility that Ibo voters might decide the election.

"The military has ruled for. so long without achieving anything. he said. The country is like stagnant water. The Alliance for Democ- not moving forward, not racy and another group, the moving hackward. And now All People's Party, have the people from the southeast joined forces by presenting a are going to decide who is

into a national anti-military uba from the southwest. It is a mood hy portraying the union of two parties that share People's Democratic Party as the party of the military and an Obasanjo presidency as a continuation of military rule. "For the military to do

what they did to an Iboman is a signal to the lbo that the Biafra war is not finished," Mr. Nwankwo said, referring to the civil war in the late 1960s during which the Ibo tried to secede from Nigeria. The message appeared to he resonating Saturday among voters who had solidly voted for the People's Democratic

looting Nigeria for years," said Chijioke Nwankwo, 34, a construction contractor who is not related to the party official. "Look at all the hillions of naira Ahacha stole. Is that not madness? That's madness! If a military man military democracy.

FBI Chief Says Pacific Events Could Be Terrorist Targets

WELLINGTON - Louis Freeh, director of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, said Thursday that New Zealand and the South Pacific presented "targets of opportunity" for lerrorist attacks during upcoming highprofile events.

Events include a meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders in September in Auckland, New Zealand, expected to be attended by President Bill Clinton, and the Sydney Olympic Games in

may not be an infrastructure here for a chiefs. group that would plan and be capable of carrying out an attack - that was also the case in East Africa."

ing in the deaths of more than 250 people. Osama hin Laden, a Saudi dissident, is accused by the United States of masterminding the attacks

commissioner. Peter Doone, said the risk in New Zealand; was not aignificant, but that the bureau always planned as if an attack was imminent at such high-profile events.

"We are confident that any head of state or anyone else coming here, par-"I think that you could categorize it ticularly in an official capacity, will be as a target of opportunity," Mr. Freeh said after said, "in the sense that although there talks with senior police and security

Mr. Freeh said that although there could be attacks here, there were clear disadvantages, including the diffi-U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tan-zania were bombed in August result-such as New Zealand.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Help for Mobile Satellite Phones

WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal regulators were moving forward Thursday on a plan that would protect Americans with mohile satellite phones from having them confiscated or subject to hefty duties wheo they travel to other countries. The Federal Communications Commission plans to let a U.S. company obtain its approval for equipment without also

having to get similar approval from countries where the phones will be used. A number of countries — including all members of the European Union, Japan, South Korea, Canada and Kenya — have agreed to hooor U.S. equipment authorizations, while the United States will hooor theirs.

Smog Is Heavy in Hong Kong...

high for 1999. The roadside air pollution index, which tracks nitrogeo dioxide levels, registered 134, a level at which people with heart or respiratory illnesses are advised to avoid places with heavy traffic and to reduce physical exertion.

The smog was mostly auto diesel fumes, which stayed in the

... And the Airport There Is Costly

HONG KONG (AFP) — The high cost of using Hong Kong's new airport poses a threat to the territory's competitive edge as a regional aviation hub, an airline official said in remarks published Thursday.

Philip Chen, chief operating officer of the Hong Kong flag carrier, Cathay Pacific Airways, said in an article in the airline's in-house newspaper that the new airport was the third most expensive airport in the world, after Japan's Kansai and HONG KONG (AP) — A blanket of smog enveloped ceotral Hong Kong on Thursday as air pollution hit a record percent more expensive that the old airport in Kowloon. Narita, because of charges levied on airlines. He said it was 64

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the centrel and southern shower or two on Saturplans on Saturday A lew furnes will cross northern whose southern Scandineus Saturday. A lew furnes will cross northern move across central and southern southern Scandineus Saturday, while San Northwest temporarily urday, while showers and gapore will be hol and thunderstorms will five up across Tomoto. New York and Washington D.C. on Saturday and dry across Italy North America

lurday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.

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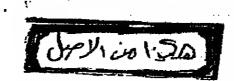
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Away From Politics

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New Political Reality in Capital: The Sensational Is Merely Old Hat

By John F. Harris Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton, in a news conference that reflected the hizarre atmosphere in Washington, fielded questions for 51 minutes with his visitor, President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana, in a session that at tirnes seemed almost farcically unscripted.

In the first question Wednesday, the president was asked if he wished to respond to news reports about an Arkansas woman accusing him of sexual as-

Sensationalism in Washington, now just routine, was reflected further Wednesday evening with the broadcast by NBC of an interview with the woman, who alleged that she was assaulted by Mr. Clinton in 1978 when he was state

week, with the former intern quoted as barely cansed a ripple. saying she wanted to apologize to the nation for the ordeal caused by her affair with the president.

The exchanges between Mr. Clinton and the press corps offered some vivid glimpses into Washington political reality in the wake of the impeachment drama. What once would have been a sensational event — a president being quizzed about lurid sexual allegations—has become somebow nearly old hat

after a year of the Lewinsky scandal.

Mr. Clinton curtly referred Helen Thomas of United Press International, the dean of the White House press corps, to a statement from his lawyer when she asked, obliquely, about the allegations leveled recently by an Arkansas nursing home owner, Juanita Broaddrick. She alleged that he forced her to have sex in

The day also showed bow quickly Mr. Clinton's agenda, at least as measured by the questions he receives, has returned to

■ Lewinsky's TV Interview

more conventional subjects.

Howard Kurtz of The Washington Post

In an interview with ABC's Barbara Walters, Monica Lewinsky said she wanted to apologize to the nation for the year-long ordeal caused by her affair with the president, and she was asked whether she was still in love with Mr. Clinton. No, she said, but there were times she

still felt kind of warm toward him, according to a source who was there. At other times, she said, she realized that this was not the person she was in love with. It was another person. It was a

a source who was present at the interview Saturday at ABC's Manhattan studios. The interview will be shown on ABC's

'20/20'" program on Wednesday. The former White House intern was described as candid, direct and at times emotional and teary-eyed, part of a compelling performance that persuaded ABC executives to expand the "20/20" broadcast to two hours. The source provided a detailed reconstruction that

stopped short of a verbatim account. Meanwhile, an emotional Juanita Broaddrick told her story on national television for the first time Wednesday night. She did not tell authorities 21 years ago of her contention that Bill Clinton sexually assaulted her because, she said, "I didn't think anyone would believe me in the world."

attorney general in Arkansas.

a. botel room in 1978.

And leaks continued of Monica Lewinsky's first television interview next aides had been nervously awaiting hour interview session with Ms. Walters

blue next account punctuated by sobs, the Highlights of Ms. Lewinsky's threehour interview session with Ms. Walters

hour interview session with Ms. Walters

were provided to The Washington Post by room, Mr. Clinton suddenly "turned me around and started kissing me, and that member the date, even the month, of the was a real shock.

"I first pushed him away," she said, 'and just told him 'no.'

"The second time he tries to kiss me he starts biting on my lip," she said. 'And then he forces me down on the bed. I just was very frightened, and I tried to get away from him and I told him 'no.' 'She added, 'He wouldn't listen

to me." She continued: "He was such a different person at that moment. He was just a vicious, awful person."

But Mrs. Broaddrick could not realleged 1978 incident. And NBC's Lisa Myers reported that Mrs. Broaddrick. who was a volunteer in Mr. Clinton's first gubernatorial campaign, attended a

Clintun fund-raiser three weeks later. "I think I was still in denial," Mrs. Broaddrick said. "I still felt very guilty at that time, that it was my fault. By letting him come to the room, I had given him the wrong idea." The next year, she acknowledged, she accepted a Clintou appointment to a nonpaying post on a state advisory board.



Carla Roth, a German lawmaker who represents the hame town of Karl LaGrand, praying before his execution at Arizona State Prison.

Senators Advised to Avoid Haste on Counsel Law

By Lizette Alvarez New York Times Service

WASHINGTON --- With the Senate apparently poised either to scrap or strip back the independent counsel law, Howard Baker, a former Republican Senate majority leader, has counseled senators to take a post-impeachment cooling-off period and delay the de-cision until next year.

"I recommend to the Senate and this committee that we cool it, think about it for a while, let the temper of these times · soften," Mr. Baker told the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, which had its first day of hearings on the law on

Mr. Baker, who has been sharply critcal of the law and once called it a 'fourth hranch of government,' suggested that Congress permit the law to expire on June 30 and take up the issue tergate-era law, when the artorney gen- and represents very poor governmental in March.

voted in the 1970s to create the law, pointed out that it had lapsed for two years, from 1992 to 1994, with no dire

into a decision with the passions over special prosecutor. impeachment still fresh, said Mr. Baker, Now the attorne who was President Ronald Reagan's the appointment of an independent chief of staff while an independent council when there is substantial and sel. Lawrence Walsh, was investigating the Iran-contra affair concerning secret U.S. government funding of guerrillas in Nicaragua in the early 1980s.

A few of the other panelists, including Griffin Bell, President Jimmy

Carter's first attorney general, suggested to the senators that the country return to

next session. The former senator, who eral had sole power to appoint outside policy." Mr. Bell said. It was not a view prosecutors to handle cases involving high-level wrongdoing. That system was changed in 1978 after Watergate and President Richard Nixon's decision to It would be a mistake to rush headlong order the firing of Archibald Cox, a

> Now the attorney general must seek credible evidence that a crime has been committed by the president or other government officials. A panel of three judges selects the counsel.

Mr. Bell and Mr. Baker are co-chairformer independent counsel, did not men of the National Commission on the hesitate to tell senators to abandon the Separation of Powers, an organization law, calling it fundamentally "flawed." that issued a report in December that recommended that the current independent counsel law not be reauthorized.

"I long ago concluded that this statute the system that existed before the Wa- is noworkable for a number of reasons

shared by all experts. The first special prosecutor ever appointed, Arthur Christie, recommended renewing the law, but with restrictions.

'Personal mistakes and limitations." he said, should be off limits. Mr. Christie was appointed in the Carter administration in the late 1970s.

The Governmental Affairs Committee, led by Senator Fred Thompson, Republican of Tennessee, began the first of several hearings Wednesday ou whether Congress should revise, scrap or replace the contentious independent counsel law, If Congress does not act, the law, which was created in 1978 and has been reauthorized and tinkered with three times since then, will simply expire June 30. The committee could hear from Attomey General Janet Reno and. perhaps, the independent counsel Kenneth Starr

Away From Politics

· One of the two men accused in a murderous sex-and-torture spree in the California mountains was convicted of killing 11 people. Charles Ng. 38, a British subject from Hong Kong, could receive the death penalty in the sentencing phase of the trial, set for next

during a robbery was executed by in-Evans Green, 38, was the seventh person officials said that scientific advances, including genetic tests, · executed in Texas this year.

· O.J. Simpson's appeal for custody of his two children was rejected by the California Supreme Court. The children remain with him for now. He faces a new custody trial that would include evi-dence on their mother's slaying. (AP)

· White supremacists are relying on the Internet to find potential recruits, fueling growth among hate groups, ac-cording to the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama. It said the number of hate groups in the United States increased to 537 in 1998 from 474 in 1997, while the number of Internet hate sites rose from 163 to 254. (AP)

Closure for the Tomb of the Unknowns

By Steven Lee Myers New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - With science now outpacing military tradition, the Pentagon has concluded that it will not place new remains from the Vietnam War in the Tomh of the Unknowns A man who fatally shot a store clerk at Arlington National Cemetery, according to senior officials. Nine months after remains were removed from the tomh jection in Huntsville, Texas. Norman and identified as those of First Lieutenant Michael Blassie, the

> had all but eliminated the chance that any remains recovered from the war would not be identified. that dates In the United States to the Civil War, when 2,011 unknown soldiers were honored by a granite tomh at Arlington. The cemetery, which is in Virginia, faces Washington

> across the Potomac River. With the Pentagon now taking DNA samples from everyone who joins the military, there is little chance that future wars will produce unidentifiable remains. No other crypts are likely to join those at the tomh honoring unidentified soldiers who died in World War I, World War II and the Korean

> "We really don't have another candidate for the tomb," Rudy De Leon, undersecretary of defense for personnel, said. Potentially, all the remains are identifiable.

William Cohen, the secretary of defense, oversees the Tomb of the Unknowns and has not decided on its fate. But he awaii identification at an army laboratory in Hawaii.

is expected in the weeks ahead to choose what to do with the now empty crypt that for 14 years held the remains of Lieutenant Blassie.

Veterans' groups and organizations representing the families of the missing have suhmitted a number of proposals. One idea, from the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, would involve installing a plaque near the tomh inscribed, "In honor of those still missing, this crypt remains forever empty." Another proposal suggests writing "In memory of" on the white marble tablet that covers the crypt.

'We'll handle this in a dignified way that provides some The Pentagon's conclusion signals the end of a military rite closure," said the Pentagon spokesman, Kenneth Bacon, adding that Mr. Cohen agreed that no new remains would be placed in the tomh. "We need to find some fitting and proper

way to honor" those who died in Vietnam, he said At Arlington, little has changed outwardly at the tomb. After Lieutenant Blassie's remains were removed, workers sealed the crypt and replaced the marble tablet, which is marked with the years of U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia, 1958-1975.

To the side, a sign on the tomh's history has been updated with a paragraph about the Blassie case. "The crypt is presently empty," it concludes, "but it serves as a tribute to all those who made the supreme sacrifice during the Vietnam Conflict."

There are still 2,069 Americans missing from the Vietnam War, and about 200 sets of bones, teeth and other remains

German Put to Death For Murder in Arizona

FLORENCE, Arizona - Out of appeals and minutes from a slow, agonizing death in a cloud of cyanide fumes, Karl LaGrand begged to be executed by injection. State officials granted his wish.

Mr. LaGrand, a German citizen who chose the gas chamber over lethal injection in an attempt to avoid execution, was put to death Wednesday night for the 1982 slaying of Kenneth Hartsock, a bank manager, during a bungled rohbery.

Germany called the execution "ex-tremely regrettable" in statement is-mously in favor of the brothers. sned Thursday by the German Emhassy in Washington. "Even the of execution late Wednesday after greatest sin is no excuse to take a person's life," Mr. Fischer said.

The U.S. Supreme Court overturned a lower court's stay of execution hours earlier and cleared the way for the death sentence to be carried ont. The federal appeals court had ruled that the use of cyanide gas was cruel and unusoal punishment, just as Mr. LaGrand had calculated.

Mr. LaGrand asked for the switch to execution. Attorney General Janet Napolitano of Arizona said she and Governor Jane Hull approved the request

because of the late hour and "rather than create another avenue of ap-

Mr. LaGrand's brother, Walter, 37, is set to die in the gas chamber March 3 for the same crime. Ms. Napolitano said Walter LaGrand would be allowed to switch to lethal injection if he

Attorneys for the LaGrands, who have been on death row since 1984, gambled that an appeals court would accept their argument that gas was cruel and unusual punishment. A Foreign Minister Joshka Fischer of three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Cir-

The Supreme Court lifted the stay

Arizona last executed a prisoner with gas in 1992. The death was regarded as so gruesome that voters approved the use of lethal injection. Killers who were convicted before the law passed were given a choice of injection or gas.

The brothers came to the United

States as young boys in 1967 after their mother married an American serlethal injection a half-hour before the viceman. Their case has drawn widespread attention in Germany, which does not have the death penalty.

(AP. Reuters)

Senate Approves Big Military Pay Raise Begala Leaving the White House

By Helen Dewar Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - The Senate has overwhelmingly approved the largest military pay increase in nearly two de-cades, marking what some lawmakers see as an opening assault on spending constraints in a new era of budget surpluses. The first major hill passed by the

Senate since the end of the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton, the legislation was aimed at demonstrating that senators were gearing up to conduct serious business despite their monthlong preoccupation with the trial.

It also provided a political oppor-tunity for Republicans to amplify their accusations that Mr. Clinton has short-changed the military and for Democrats to show that they, too, support better pay and more benefits for the armed forces. But the bill drew budgetary objections

from the Clinton administration, which had proposed a less costly pay-and-benefits package, and prompted warnings from lawmakers of both parties that it could wind up squeezing other programs or eroding the fiscal discipline that helped end decades of budget deficits.

Even as the military compensation bill was being debated Wednesday in the Senate, Republicans including the House speaker, Dennis Hastert of Illinois, and the majority whip, Tom DeLay of Texas, indicated that spending caps approved as part of the big 1997 budget deal may have to be raised, in part because of increased military spending.

The Senate majority leader. Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, has said he wants in avoid any breach of hudget caps, although other senators have said this may be difficult in light of mounting pressures for increased domestic and

military spending. The 91-to-8 vote in favor of the payand-benefits hill in the Senate gives the legislation a powerful head of steam as it moves to the House, where similar leg-islation is on track for consideration this spring, probably in connection with the

defense authorization bill for 2000. The bill would authorize, subject to future appropriations, a 4.8 percent military pay raise starting Jan. 1, with annual increases thereafter of one-half percent above the inflation rate.

Mr. Clinton had proposed a 4.4 percent increase for next year, followed by annual increases of up to 3.9 percent.

military pay increase since 1982. assistance to low-paid per now qualify for food star itary personnel the option of choosing a panded education benefits. more generons pension plan than was available until 1986, which provided 50 percent of basic pay after 20 years.

The bill also would give military personnel access to tax-favored savings accounts similar to the 401(k) plans avail-The Senate proposal would be the largest able in private sector employees, special assistance to low-paid personnel who now qualify for food stamps and ex-

The administration argued that the bill costs \$11.6 billion more than Mr. Clinton's request over six years.

No Free-Speech Shelter For Illegal Immigrants

Supreme Court Limits Recourse for Aliens

By Joan Biskupic and William Branigin Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court has sharply limited the First Amendment rights of illegal immigrants, riling that people here unlaw-fully cannot shield themselves from deportation by claiming the government is trying to banish them simply because of their political views. The 6-to-3 decision Wednesday

strikes at the heart of the American tradition of safeguarding free speech and offers one of the court's strongest opinions limiting the constitutional freedoms of illegal immigrants. But for the government, it is an important victory in its effort to keep those who have no legal right to be here from evading deportation on extraneous grounds.

The two-pronged decision also forbids illegal immigrants from trying to fend off deportation through federal courts until they already have exhausted every other administrative immigration procedure. That portion of the ruling, decided by an 8-to-1 vote. upholds a 1996 federal law armed at speeding the deportation of illegal aliremain in the United States for years aliens residing in this country."

through lengthy legal challenges. Reno vs. American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee goes back to 1987, when the government began trying to deport seven Palestinians and a Kenyan with ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a group the Justice Department described as a terrorist organization. But the Los Angeles-area activists contended the eight were targeted for potential violations of immigration law because of legitimate fund-raising and other free-

speech activities for the Popular Front. Immigration experts said the ruling was unlikely to affect most of the thousands of people subject to deportation annually because few claim they are being targeted for their political views. But immigrant advocates said it could intimidate immigrants and make them afraid in speak out about any political matter for fear of drawing attention to their illegal status.

The case also marks a departure from a general court trend of bestowing on illegal immigrants the same due process of law and other constitutional freedoms granted to American eitizens. Dissenting justices pointed to a 1945 court ruling that said, "Freedom ens, many of whom have managed to of speech and of press is accorded

WASHINGTON — Paul Begala, the White House coun-selor who first signed on with Bill Clinton in the 1992 campaign and has been one of the president's top political advisers in the impeachment battle of the past year, is leaving

Mr. Begala, 37, a political consultant who with his former McConnell is clearmer, James Carville, was one of the core participants in the atorial Comminee. famous "War Room" campaign team in 1992, is taking a teaching job at Georgetown University.

His impending departure, which had been widely forecast by White House colleagues months ago, will rob the administration of one of its more visible political strategists. Mr. Begala has appeared regularly on television as a tireless defender of Mr. Clinton and, within the White House, has been

months about his sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky,

Mr. Begala said he was grateful to Mr. Clinton for elevating him from "a journeyman hack political consultant" and giving him "a chance to play in the big leagues." But he said he was ready to leave: "I never promised to he the one loading Buddy and Socks into the U-Haul." (WP)

Republicans See an Opportunity

WASHINGTON - Republicans are getting ready in use the prospect that Hillary Rodham Clinton may run for the

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POLITICAL NOTES Senate to spur their contributors to upon their pocket books. "Republicans, not only in New York but across the country, are very energized by this contest, "Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said at a picture-taking session on Capitol Hill with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of New York, the Republican most likely candidate to seek the Senate seat next year. "It has generated an enormous amount of interest in Republican base

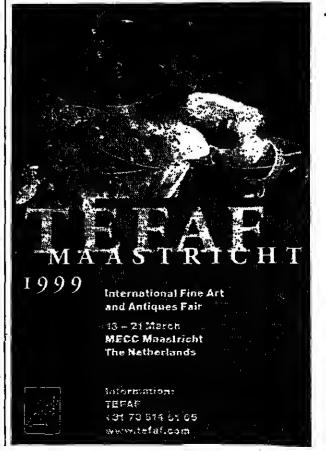
ters and contributors around the country. McConnell is chairman of the National Republican Sen-

Quote/Unquote

Mike McCurry, the former presidential press secretary, nn

Chelsea Clinton, the president's daughter:
"Chelsea had an experience as a child in the White House a key figure planning communications and legislative strategy.

But he went through his own brief bout of disillusionment after Mr. Clinton's admission last summer that he had lied for after Mr. Clinton's admission last summer that he had lied for after Mr. Clinton's admission last summer that he had lied for after Mr. Clinton's admission last summer that he had lied for after Mr. Clinton's admission last summer that he had lied for after Mr. Clinton's and white House and turned out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion, she has her head surred out a pretty good kid. In my opinion and the white House and the white H



Schroeder Finds an Opposition Ally

German Greens Bypassed as Free Democrats Aid Reform Plan

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT - Germany's op-Gerhard Schroeder in a move that threatens to marginalize Mr. Schroeder's Greens party coalition

According to Bonn sources and commentators, Mr. Schroeder's interior minister wants to adopt a position aligned with the conservative Free week on a pledge to grant permanent dual nationality rights to foreigners who become new German citizens.

After the Greens lost on nearly all the landmark reforms they brought into the government program in the heady days after the election in September, the setback over citizenship laws carries a particularly painful sting to the environmentalist party.

Rather than relying on a plan by the Greens, Mr. Schroeder's government must rely on the opposition Free Democratic Party, whose pro-husiness views often are anathema to many Greens and Social Democrats.

The compromise supported by the Free Democrats overturns a proposal embraced by the Greens to offer dual nationality to foreigners who are nat-

Schroeder this month in Hesse, which hlamed the Greens for the mistakes of deprives the Social Democrats of a his first four months. majority in the Bundesrat, or upper house, the original Greens plan no Welt reported which ministries the

Continued from Page 1

I think that it is important to look at how

we can benefit from a strategic dialogue

She said China had "moved in a good

direction" on limiting the proliferation

of weapons of mass destruction, and had

had a helpful influence on the Communist dictatorship in North Korea.

doing in all the areas that you have

raised," she said. "I'm on my way to

China and I'm going to raise all the issues that you have brought up."

Continued from Page 1

head the relatively small Center for De-

fense Information here, officials said.

Three others who received ap-

proaches were David Pryor, another

'We do not endorse what China is

with them, which is what we do,"

"It is not a perfect relationship," Mrs. Albright told the House committee. "But

Kurdish protests in German cities last week inflamed the citizenship isposition Free Democratic Party on sue anew. After conservatives last Thursday emerged as the saviors of a month had warned that the dual-citkey citizenship reform by Chancellor izenship law would import Turkishworst fears were realized when three people were killed in a protest by lurds in Berlin.

Mr. Schroeder's left-leaning coalition abandoned another Green-led initiative earlier in the week when it withdrew plans for an early ban on re-Democrats after backpedaling this processing nuclear waste. That setback was a hlow to a drive led by the Greens to shut the nation's 19 nuclear power reactors at the soonest possible date.

In a clear reference to the nuclear power issue, Mr. Schroeder blamed the Greens for pushing "minority" issues into the center of the public debate.

To Mr. Schroeder's critics, the reversals on citizenship and nuclear power are only the latest policy missteps. German commentators and the opposition frequently use the term chaos" to describe Mr. Schroeder's economic policies.

The Free Democrats gleefully added to Mr. Schroeder's political misfor-tunes hy instigating a debate over the instability of Mr. Schroeder's "redgreen" alliance. Some Free Democratic leaders recently have flirted with the idea of even displacing the Greens in Following a reversal for Mr. the coalition. Mr. Schroeder recently

SENATE: Lawmakers Condemn China for Human Rights Abuses

On Oct. 5, China signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political

rights, and Beijing had hoped to avoid a new confrontation before the UN rights

commission. But sponsors of the Senate

legislation said that it had not moved

since then to comply with the covenant.

'Human rights conditions have only

deteriorated in China and Tibet," said

Senator Connie Mack, Republican of

than friends in Congress for years, par-

ticularly since the 1989 crackdown

around Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

ENVOY: U.S. Ambassador to China Proves a Tough Position to Fill

Clinton's term ends in January 2001.

former Democratic senator from Arkan-sas; General John Shalikashvili, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of more discouraged by the heavy strains in the inevitable committee showdown.

Others said the ambassador would

The potential candidates apparently

Mr. Lott said that to emphasize the depth organizing a human rights s of Senate feeling on China, he had sched-held text month in Wuhan.

In refusing the prospect, some ex- thought a confirmation hearing before

pressed amhivalence about such a de- the Committee on Foreign Relations,

manding overseas position for a tour that which is headed by Senator Jesse Helms,

might be over in less than two years. Mr. Republican of North Carolina, would be

China has found more vocal critics

longer has a chance of clearing Par- Free Democrats would claim under

Few are willing to forecast a coalition split in Bonn for now, although television talk shows and newspaper columns offer a lively debate about such a scenario. The first real durability Kurdish conflicts into Germany, their test of Mr. Schroeder's alliance comes in June with two key elections. If the Social Democrats or Greens turn in a poor showing in the June 6 statehouse vote in Bremen or the June 13 European Union Parliament vote then, some commentators said, they "no longer exclude a coalition break."

"The red-green coalition under Gerhard Schroeder has not been in office for much longer than 100 days before people in Bonn are talking about its early end;" Die Welt commented. The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung wrote in an editorial, "At the center of power, the ties between red and green are

The Social Democrats, in theory onuld huild a new coalition majority in the Bundestag, the lower house of Parliament, with the Free Democrats, throwing overboard the Greens. But the Free Democrats are too weak in the Bundesrat to build a clear majority

The Free Democrats, with a history of shifting allegiances, have been Bonn's political kingmakers for most postwar administrations. In 1982, they ditched Helmut Schmidt's Social Democratic-led coalition and joined the Christian Democrats of former Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Mr. Schroeder beat Mr. Kohl last

uled the human rights measure as only the second to be dealt with after the Clinton

impeachment trial; the first was a military

pay raise. "There continues to be terrible

The resolution speaks of "widespread

and well-documented human rights abus-

es in China and Tibet" and of continuing

planning policies and the sale of human organs taken from executed prisoners."

Thursday in central Hubei Province, a

Hong Kong rights group said, according to Reuters. The four reportedly were

organizing a human rights seminar to be

as unforgiving as earlier hearings over

Samuel Berger, the national security

adviser, is heading the search to replace

James Sasser, who became ambassador

to China in 1996 after losing his seat as a

Democratic senator from Tennessee. He leaves the embassy in May.
''Obviously, this joh is critical to
United States national interests, and

we're looking at people of stature," said

David Leavy, a spokesman for the Na-tional Security Council. "We don't feel we're behind the curve. It's at the top of

our agenda." Mr. Leavy said that only

two people had been approached se-

Other officials, who demanded an-onymity, said Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Lake

and Mr. Bumpers had been asked to

consider the position. Friends of Mr.

Pryor said he had been approached as

Stephen Bosworth, now ambassador to

South Korea, former senior Clinton ad-

this is a pivotal moment for one of the

most important foreign relationships and

At the same time, the officials said, an

The other official approached was

Administration officials agree that

well hut had turned it down at once.

ministration officials said.

riously about the joh.

China's trade status.

'coercive implementation of family

Four political dissidents were arrested

man rights violations in China."



Serbian policemen patrolling a road west of Pristina, Yugoslavia, on Thursday as tensions in the province rose.

KOSOVO: NATO Moves Closer as Serbian Troops Mass on Border

Continued from Page 1

on NATO or UN missions.

To prevent these forces from entering Kosovo hy land, Serbian commandos reportedly have mined the main roads, hridges and narrow passes threading the mountains along the frontier, but NATO has helicopter assault forces. In an emergency, air strikes would be the first NATO option.

gained room for some brinksmanship to test Western determination, Western of- civilians. ficials said privately, because of the decision by the 16-man negotiating team representing the ethnic Albanian ma-

with the fractions Kosovo Liberation Army, finally landing only after several hours' delay caused by the Serbian anthorities in Kosovo.

Trying to maintain a cease-fire before talks resume on March 15, Western leaders warned that NATO air strikes would be triggered immediately if Serb forces went on the offensive or committed what Robin Cook, the British foreign sec-. But Mr. Milosevic appeared to have retary, described as "disproportionate violence," including atrocities against

Bnt a forceful NATO response may be paralyzed hy European governments' reluctance to use force while diplomacy jority in Kosovo not to sign the Ram- seems to have a chance of succeeding bouillet peace plan. The delegation went - and that cautious approach seems to be

home Thursday to start consultations spreading in the Clinton administra-

Its priority now is to convince the Kosovo Liberation Army to accept the Rambouillet terms, which means laying down their guns in exchange for NATO protection. Washington could then tell Mr. Milosevic to accept the peacekeep. ing force or see his military infrastructure wrecked by NATO airstrikes.
But convincing him may be harder

now because Rambouillet has become another example of Western leaders' reluctance to back up demands with force - in this case, the negotiating deadline that expired last Saturday, only to be extended.

We imposed ceilings on Serbian forces last October and didn't act wheahe violated them," a NATO commander said. "Then we threatened to react after the December massacre of civilians, but started peace talks," Now, he asked, what is Mr. Milosevic "likely to be thinking about our readiness to use force?

Serbian military strength in Kosovo has already risen to "more than double" the levels accepted by Belgrade in October in a deal to avert NATO air strikes. Supposedly limited to 10,000 army troops and 11,000 paramilitary police, the Serbs now have more than 25,000 troops and police in Kosovo plus a growing force of 7,500 troops backed with 200 tanks just north of the province, the NATO official said.

Despite Mrs. Albright's tough public line, U.S. officials said that the Department of Defense and the National Security Council opposed airstrikes to stop these Serb reinforcements.

Asked about the Serbs' intentions, the NATO official said that "they probably are poised to act if the peace talks break

Meanwhile their intimidating presence helps scare ethnic Albanian ci-vilians out of their homes, reinforcing fears among Kosovars of a Serbian offensive to partition Kosovo.

The northern half of the province, bordering Serbia, contains Orthodox monasteries and mineral wealth coveted by Belgrade.

Fighting erupted Thursday between Serbian forces equipped with tanks and mortars and KLA guerrillas near Bukos, north of the capital, Pristina, along a highway that would have a strategic role for a Serbian incursion.

A partition hid would ignite all-out

resistance among Kosovo's ethnic Albanians, who constitute 90 percent of the local popolation, and inflame nationalism in neighboring Albania.

Israel Stops Extradition Of U.S. Murder Suspect

JERUSALEM - The Israeli Su-

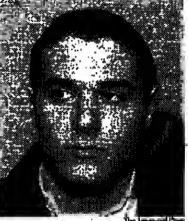
preme Court on Thursday blocked the extradition of an 18-year-old Maryland murder suspect to the United States, and the youth now faces trial in Israel. Samuel Sheinbein showed no reaction when Chief Justice Aharon Barak read the 3-to-2 decision, which

could strain ties between Israel and the United States. Maryland prosecutors had pushed for the extradition of Mr. Sheinbein, who has been indicted in Montgomery

County in the killing of an acquaintance, Alfred Tello Jr. Mr. Sheinbein fled to Israel on Sept. 21, 1997, two days after the victim's

mutilated and burned body was found. To prevent extradition, Mr. Shein- Sheinbein arriving in court. bein claimed Israeli citizenship through his father, who was born in pre-state to Israel. The Supreme Court decision Israel. Under Israeli law, citizens can- overturned that ruling.

ruled last year that Mr. Sheinbein officials said he would be indicted could be returned to the United States within the next few days. In the meanbecause he did not maintain close ties time, he will remain in detention.



Mr. Sheinbein will now be tried for But the Jerusalem District Court murder in Israel, and Justice Ministry

BRIEFLY

8 Kurds Set to Leave Embassy in Nairobi

ates of the captured rebel leader Ab-dullah Ocalan who have been in the Greek Embassy in Nairohi for nearly two weeks were set to leave Kenya on Thursday, an embassy official said.

Their safe passage was negotiated hy Pavlos Apostolodis, general secretary of the Greek Foreign Ministry, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The official declined to say where the eight were going or when they would leave, but Jacoh Chumba, a spokesman for the Kenyan Foreign Ministry, said the Kurds were flying aboard a private jet to Athens.

Continuing Warfare Reported by Eritrea

ASMARA. Erltrea - Ethiopian and Eritrean forces battled for a third successive day along their disputed western border Thursday, Eritrean government officials said.

May. The war reignited at Badme on Feh. 6 and spread to two other fronts.

NAIROBI — Eight Kurdish assocites of the captured rebel leader Abullah Ocalan who have been in the Warns on Mexico

WASHINGTON - The head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Thomas Constantine, has said Mexican drug trafficking organizations posed the worst criminal threat to the United States that he had seen in nearly 40 years in law

enforcement Speaking days before the Clinton ad-ministration's deadline for certifying that Mexico is cooperating in drug-fight-ing efforts, Mr. Constantine sketched a bleak picture in testimony Wednesday before the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control. He did not address the central question of the level of official cooperation that Mexico has offered to the United States. (NYT)

3 Expelled by Chile

SANTIAGO - Chile has ordered the officials said.

"The situation is still serious," a senior official said. Both sides have supporting protests by Mapuche Indians in southern Chile. The Interior Ministry in southern Chile. The Interior Ministry ground offensive aimed at recapturing say that they were a Frenchman a Spanland occupied by Eritrean troops last iard and an American. (AP)

AIRBUS: A \$200 Million Loss

Continued from Page 1 .

partners at fixed prices but has been discounting airplane prices to match Boeing, especially on narrow-body air-

'It's a function of the single-aisle A marketplace," said Michael Turner, executive director at British Aerospace. Boeing keeps reducing the price of the

British Aerospace, which makes wings for Airbus, generated rising profit from that subcontract work, benefiting from rising volume as Airbus deliveries rose to 229 aircraft last year from 182 in Overall, British Aerospace reported

an operating profit of £12 million on commercial aircraft husiness, its first such profit in some time.

Stripping out the company's regional aircraft business and the repayment of £122 million of government development subsidies, the company generated an operating profit margin of just over 10 percent on Airbus revenue of about £1.8 billion, estimated Nick Cunningham, an analyst with Salomon Smith Barney. Mr. Cunningham said Airhus was performing "relatively well" compared with Boeing, which carned only \$65

million last year on commercial aircraft sales of \$35 hillion. "The system as a whole remains profitahle," said Barbara Kracht, a spokes-

woman at Airbus headquarters in Toulouse, France. Airbus results would be clearer if the

partners fulfilled their goal of combining into a single corporate entity. But difficulties in valuing assets and complications stemming from the parallel process of defense consolidation continue to delay that development. Mr. Turner said he would be surprised

if it happened this year. British Aerospace said pretax profit before exceptional items rose 14 percent in 1998 to £685 million.

The results were helped by the delivery of 18 Tornado fighters to Saudi prospect for future sales there.

Staff, and Anthony Lake, a former na- Chinese-American relations.

Women in Beijing walking past an ad featuring a mobile phone Thursday.

CHINA: Beijing Blasts Satellite-Deal Ban

Continued from Page 1

of partnership, hut a harsh crackdown on dissidents begun late last year, uncertainty about China's growing military power and a burgeoning U.S. trade deficit with China estimated by U.S. of ficial said this week that despite the controversy there had not been a side that the said in the trading and launching of civilian-use satellites for a long time."

A U.S. National Security Council of ficial said this week that despite the of partnership, hut a harsh crackdown on

way for Zhu Rongji's first trip to Amer-ica since being appointed China's prime tough new scrutiny. The Commerce Deminister last year.
Asia-Pacific Mobile Telecommunica-

tions is a cellular phone venture that hold that licensing authority. includes investors from Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand and Indonesia hut is 51 percent owned by Chinese organizations. Belittling concerns raised by some U.S. officials that China's military could have benefited from the sale, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Zhang Qiyue, said the U.S. rejection of Hughes Electronics Corp.'s application to export the satellites had been made 'under the excuse of national-security interests," according to a statement released by the official Xinhua news agency.

The spokeswoman said China had lodged a "strong complaint" over the died of heart failure Tuesday at his home in London. matter but gave no indication of what if He had been the youngest member of Winston any punitive trade measures it was considering in response to the U.S. move.

Churchill's postwar government and was a rising figure in the Conservative Party leadership when he

sidering in response to the U.S. move.

The issue of American high-technology transfers to China is likely to be a British and French officials on Oct. 14, 1956 at high-profile one before Mr. Zhu's visit to Chequers, the prime ministerial retreat. the United States. A congressional comminee investigating improper transfers is expected to release an unclassified ver- ident Gamal Abdel Nasser had nationalized the Suez sion of the full report in the coming Canal in July. Sir Anthony learned at the secret gathweeks. Mrs. Zhang, the Chinese spokes- ering that Prime Minister Anthony Eden, his mentor,

U.S. officials as the beginning of new era providers, all of whom she said had

By Warren Hoge

New York Tunes Service

LONDON — Sir Anthony Nutting, 79, a deputy foreign secretary who sacrificed a potentially hrilliant

political career by resigning over Britain's involve-

Israel was about to attack Egypt, which under Pres-

ment in the 1956 attack on Egypt over the Snez Canal,

The Suez Canal crisis was the topic.

that Mr. Clinton is searching for a prom-inent figure whose name alone would woman, defended the past behavior of Chinese huyers and American satellite convey to the Chinese how highly Wasbington values its dealings with them.

ficials to be running at more than \$1 controversy, there had not been a "funbillion a week have left Mrs. Albright
with a series of nettlesome problems to
address while in Beijing.
Her trip is also intended to smooth the
Her trip is also intended to smooth the beginning next month is likely to bring tough new scrutiny. The Commerce Department, which had recommended that the Hughes sale be approved, used to

amhassador-designate must be per-ceived as tough on Beijing to win con-firmation from Congress.

But a confirmation hearing of even the

most popular candidate is expected to become a platform for every senator with a problem with China, a senior Clinton administration official said. "The confirmation would go on and on, and it will be a bruising battle," the official said.

specialist on China.

Anthony Nutting Dies; Resigned Over Suez Attack and the French leaders had agreed that once fighting Willard R. Espy, 88, Punster

began, they would send in their own paratroopers. The public justification would be the need to separate Israeli and Egyptian forces. But the true purpose, the leaders agreed, would be to support Israel, recover the canal and undermine President Nasser, who had turned to the Soviet bloc for weapons.

Sir Anthony, who two years earlier had negotiated the final steps of the treaty in Cairo with Colonel Nasser under which British troops withdrew from Suez, felt the mission was mistaken and deceitful.

When British planes took to the air on Oct. 31, he decided to quit. For security reasons, he did not give the customary resignation speech to Commons, and his constituents accused him of betaval.

Harold Macmillan, later to become prime minister, had urged him not to resign, saying, "You will lead the had urged him not to resign, saying, "You will lead the party one day." Instead, Sir Anthony found his promone of the most prominent poets of his generation.

Was named, won the American Book Award in 1982 Arabia, although executives acknowled edged that low oil prices had burn the prospect for future sales there.

NEW YORK — Willard R. Espy, 88, who had such a winsome way with words, such an elegant ear for rhyme and such a sure sense of the absurd that be once began a poem with the words, "I do not roister with an oyster," died Saturday at New York Hospital. The cause was not announced. William M. Bronk, 81, Poet

New York Times Service NEW YORK - William M. Bronk, 81, a poet known for the philosophical depth of his work, died Monday at his home in Hudson Falls, New York, He had been ailing with emphysema. Mr. Bronk, who was descended from Jonas Bronck, for whom the Bronx

RESCUE: 3 Frenchi Continued from Page 1 Fresh production of the state of the state of section of the regions. deraign - the control of the control

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More Killed

As Sectarian

Clashes Flare

In Indonesia

AMBON, Indonesia - Thousands of

refugees left Ambon in eastern Indone-

sia on Thursday as the death toll from

clashes between Muslims and Chrisoans rose to at least 24, residents and official

'Clashes happen every day. Today, nine Muslims were killed in Ambon and two in nearby villages, including an in-

sane man who happened to be a Muslim," said an official of the Ambon

chapter of the Indonesia Council of Ulemas, an Islamic group. "That's the figure which I can confirm."

The official news agency Antara said at least 24 people had been killed since

clashes flared again Tuesday in Ambon, about 2,300 km (1,440 miles) east of Jakarta. Residents said the main roads

were deserted, with troops blocking the

city center and many people staying at

home. Local workers for Christian and

Muslim support groups said frightened

residents were seeking refuge in churches and mosques. Some had lost

Ambon is the epicenter of savage sec-

their homes in arson attacks.

press reports said.



'58 Political Prisoner Is Released by Seoul

By Kevin Sullivan ashington Post Service

SEOUL — Looking thin but happy, the man believed to be the world's longest-serving political prisoner walked through prison gates Thursday morning into an outside world he has not seen in 41 years.

"For over 40 years, I've been in con-finement," Woo Yong Gak, 69, said, pwing to the crowd of reporters and human rights activists who gathered at the prison gate.
"Now I'm very happy to see the

Mr. Woo and 16 other prisoners were freed to mark the first anniversary of President Kim Dae Jung's administra-

The world has changed dramatically since 1958, when Mr. Woo was captured as he led a North Korean reconnaissance boat into South Korean waters. But time has stood virtually still for

tensions on the divided Korean Pen- Korea on the repatriation issue, but he insula, which is as volatile today as it insisted that those talks be "fair and was when Mr. Woo began what rights convincing to the Korean people." activists describe as decades of solitary confinement, deprivation and torture.

prisoners' release, and cheered the government for dropping a long-standing oners wanted to return to North Korea.

"This is not a private issue," Mr ment pledging to follow South Korean law, including the provisions that make it a crime to praise North Korea.

But freeing the prisoners -- led by

Mr. Won, who had become a celebrated cause among human rights groups — has already posed a delicate dilemma in relations between the two Koreas.

North Korea bas appealed for the pris-

oners, all of whom were former North Korean agents or sympathizers, to be sent 'back to the bosoms of their families" in the North.

Allowing the prisoners to go north would "be an important turning point in opening the door to a wide range of contacts and bring about a thawing in frozen inter-Korean relations," said a letter from the North Korean Red

The South Korean president said at a news conference Wednesday that he would consider such a step only if North Korea agreed to return some of the 200 or more South Koreans - mainly prisoners of war from the Korean War who are believed held in North Korean

Mr. Kim called for talks with North

It was unclear whether the repatriatioo issue would make talks between Human rights organizations hailed the the two adversaries more likely, or even whether Mr. Woo and the other pris-This is not a private issue," Mr. Woo said.

"This is a bilateral and bumanitarian issue. I hope this issue will be resolved in a humanitarian way."



Woo Yong Gak, a former spy for North Korea, being welcomed as he stepped out of Taejon prison Thursday.

Dressed in a dark windbreaker and human rights groups' efforts toward freedom of conscience violated further. dark-rimmed glasses, Mr. Woo said that changing public sentiment, and the 'rehe was suffering from diabetes but was

in otherwise good health.

Almost 1,500 other prisoners were freed and 9,000 people not in jail had their criminal records cleared as part of

"The psychological and material help given from a humanitarian viewpoint,

lease movement by Amnesty Interna-tional is carved in my heart," Mr. Woo evidence of improvement in South Kosaid, looking a little dazed as he accepted flowers from well-wishers. He said he hoped to continue to work

said that he had refused to sign the lawabiding oath because he did not want his

BRIEFLY

BRIEFLY

rea's human rights record since Mr. Kim took office.

He said he hoped to continue to work toward unification of the Koreas. He also groups, such as political opponents and even Ministry of Justice officials' seemed to be blocking reforms.

tarian violence that has claimed more than 160 lives this year. Fourteen people were reported to have died here on Wednesday alone as troops fired on Christians and Muslims who were fighong each other with firebomhs, machetes and

In Bomeo, ethnic violence erupted again Thursday in the Sambas district of West Kalimantan Province, raising the death toll to seven, Antara reported. The agency said at least four houses were burned Thursday, It said at least 58 houses, mostly owned by Madurese people from East Java, had been hurned since a fight over a bus fare Monday started riots.
In East Timor, thousands of pro-in-

dependence youths marched through the provincial capital, Dili, on Thursday to mourn two comrades who died during a clash with Indonesian troops Wednesday, witnesses said.

The bodies of Joaquine de Jesus, a university student, and Fransisco da Concesta Omai, a high-school student, were paraded to the provincial governor's beachfront office. One soldier was killed in the clash.

Indonesia has been racked by waves of unrest during the past year as ethnic, religious and social tensions, fueled by the country's worst economic and political crises in decades, boiled over.

Police and soldiers have been ordered to shoot rioters and troublemakers on sight, and the government is forming a rapid-response force to deal with oulbreaks of unrest. But the understaffed and poorly trained armed forces have been unable to stem the growing tide of violence and lawlessness, and many expect the situation to get worse in the

countdown to elections on June 7.

Marcos Victims to Get Millions

An Unprecedented Settlement for Human Rights Abuses

MANILA — The family of the late
Philippine leader Ferdinand Marcos has
agreed to pay \$150 million in damages to
signed for the Marcos
signed for the Marcos Philippine leader Ferdinand Marcos has agreed to pay \$150 million in damages to 10,000 victims of human rights abuses former first lady, Imelda Marcos, and after a 13-year legal battle, lawyers for her son, Ferdinand Jr., who is a pro-the victims said Thursday. vincial governor, and by Mr. Swift for

Under the preliminary agreement, the distribution of the money would be su-pervised by the U.S. District Court in on the report. Hawaii, which in 1993 found Mr. Marcos liable for atrocities committed by sol-

diers during his rule, the lawyers said.
'A despot who abuses his people will finally pay," said a statement issued by lawyers for the victims, Robert Swift in the United States and Rod Domingo in

'Never before have victims of human rights abuses in any country recovered on a judgment against the perpetrator," the lawyers said.

ment in Manila, said the agreement Treasury and also claims his assets.

was willing to share some of the Marcos'

The Marcos family declined comment

'All statements will come from the

office of President Estrada," said a spokesman for Mr. Marcos's son.

spokesman for Mr. Marcos's son.

The Hawaii court had ordered the Marcos estate to pay \$2.0 billion to victims of torture and to relatives of dissidents who disappeared or were killed by soldiers during the Marcos regime.

The victims agreed to a compromise amount of \$150 million because it would take wears to collect the full amount from

take years to collect the full amount from the Marcoses, who had disputed the Mr. Domingo, who released the state- Hawaii court ruling, Mr. Domingo said.

Mr. Domingo said the money would be would still need the approval of the drawn from the half a billion dollars of government of the Philippines, which Marcos deposits in Swiss banks. Switzerhas accused Mr. Marcos of looting the land has transferred the deposits to an escrow account in Manila pending a court President Joseph Estrada has said he ruling on who actually owns the money.

Chinese Jet Seen Spewing Smoke

RUI AN, China - Workers combed through charred debris Thursday for clues to why an airliner crashed and exploded in a cabbage field in China, killing all 61 people aboard in the country's worst aviation disaster in nearly five

Police labored to keep thousands of onlookers away from the crash site near the small town of Rui An, on the outskirts of Wenzhon city, 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of Shanghai in coastal Zhejiang province.

Mr. Lin, a shopkeeper in Tangtou village, where the crash rattled houses, said he saw the China Southwest Airlines jet spewing black smoke and flying erratically before it crashed and exploded in the muddy field surrounded by ramshackle

Hun Sen Plans Military Cutback

TOKYO - Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia told rioting. international aid donors Thursday he planned to cut the country's armed forces by 55,000 soldiers, or about onethird, over the next five years.

In a speech opening a two-day international conference on aid to Cambodia, Mr. Hun Sen also asked that aid not be

developing the country, not to any one party or person.

plans also include decommissioning 24,000 police officers. The demohilized soldiers and police would be given "producove occupations," he said.

Cambodia to Lose Waste Dump

PHNOM PENH - Formosa Plastics Corp., the Taiwanese petrochemical giant, agreed Thursday to clean up a nearly 3,000-ton toxic waste dump in Cambodia within 60 days, a Cambodian government negotiator said. The negotiator, Om Yentieng, said the deal did not rule

out future negotiations for compensation. "Everything else can be delayed pending future negotiations," he said, "but shipping the waste out cannot be delayed."

The waste — described as "brine sludge contaminated with mercury" — was discovered by environment officials in December in a crude dump about 10 kilometers (6 miles) outside the southwestern port of Sihanoukville. A dock worker died soon after cleaning the hold of a ship that transported the waste from Taiwan, sparking hysteria and

Bangladeshis Vote Despite Strike

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Bangladesh completed three days tied to putting former Khmer Rouge leaders on trial and of local elections Thursday despite an anti-government gen-promised that help given to Cambodia would go toward cral strike that paralyzed the country's main cities and claimed seven lives. Thousands of Bangladeshis poured into polling He said his country's plans to scale back the military stations to vote for municipal councils on Tuesday, Wedwould reduce the financial burden on its state budget. The nesday and Thursday, the Election Commission said. (AP)

EUROPE

RESCUE: 3 Frenchmen Survive in Igloo

Continued from Page 1

men that they could have survived three or four more days.

1.24

week of snowstorms to spot the igloo after a faint mobile phone call on Tuesday revived hopes that the three could be biggest airlifts in the country's history, saved. On Samrday and again oo Sunday comprising some 35 helicopters from they had used the phone to contact a rescue center, but it was only the feeble Switzerland. last call that led rescuers to them. Helicopters had flown over their shelter in poor visibility without spotting it.

mountain policeman.

The three, all experienced mountaineers, had first burrowed deep into the snow to escape from the wind and cold. They built their igloo, which rescuers described as fairly comfortable, under a rock cliff to avoid being swept away by

As a huge airlift continued for a two nights. . second day to remove people from the devastated Paznann Valley in Austria, the overall death toll there rose to 32, including more than a dozen foreign tourists. Nine Germans, five Dutchmen and two Danes were identified among the dead in the hamlet of Galmer, where Europe's deadliest avalanche of the winter struck on Tuesday. At least four

persons were missing.

In Valzur, where the boy was found after a wall of snow descended Wednesday and crushed 11 houses and 2 farm compounds, three more bodies were found and two persons were still missing. Rescuers conceded that chances of digging out more survivors in

the valley were slim. Roads remained blocked although maintenance crews hoped to clear them Friday.

The avalanche danger was rated as extremely high throughout the Alps and sunny weather added to the risk by melt-

Caucasus Refugees to Return

The Associated Press MOSCOW - In the latest effort to end a decades-long ethnic conflict, top officials from the troubled Russian Cau-casus regions of Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia agreed Thursday to return all refugees to their homes by the end of the year, the ltar-Tass news agency reporttion for collaborating with the Nazis.

In Switzerland, the resort of Leukerbad was struck Thursday by a 300meter-wide (984-foot-wide) snowslide that destroyed four houses. There were French pilots used the first lull in a no fatalities after 30 people were rescued from a crushed building.

The Austrian Army led one of the Austria, the United States, Germany and

They planned to continue flying through the early evening, turning their attention to people trapped for days in "We were overjoyed when we saw a other ski resorts in the area such as man waving," said Jerome Graille, a Ischgl, which faced an acute risk of

Departing tourists described days of

"It was terrible, especially the nights," said Birgit Pick, a German tour-'We didn't know if there would be another avalanche. We hardly slept for

"The organization was a bit chaooc. Yesterday, we stood for five hours in the snow with our children, waiting for a flight oot, and then we were told we couldn't go. We went back to our hotel and were very frightened all night long. But this morning we got the first flight out, thank God." (Reuters, AP)

Omagh Bombing Suspect Freed

publican who had been in custody for three days; security

Francis Mackey, chairman of a hard-line Republican political group, was among 11 men arrested on both sides of the Irish border and questioned about the Omagh bombing, which killed 29 civilians and wounded more than 200 in August. Security sources said Mr. Mackey, 44, had been

freed without charge Wednesday night.

Mr. Mackey is chairman of the 32-County Sovereignty
Group, which is critical of the 1998 Good Priday peace deal designed to end 30 years of sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland. The organizacion has consistently denied claims that it is the political wing of the Real IRA, a dissident splinter group that planted the Omagh bomb.

custody after facing charges linked to the bombing. The accused, Colm Murpby, 48, is the only person to have been charged so far in connection with the attack. Police in Britisb-ruled Northern Ireland said one man was still being questioned there.

Ocalan Lawyers Get a Warning

ANKARA — A governor in Turkey on Thursday warned lawyers for Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed Kurdish rebel leader, not to step beyond the boundaries of their legal brief Party.

to defend their client against charges of treason.

The Anatolian news agency quoted Governor Orhan Tasanlar of Bursa as saying, "The lawyers should not abandon their legal role and take on another." Mr. Tasanlar, BELFAST — Police investigating Northern Ireland's abandon their legal role and take on another." Mr. Tasanlar, worst guerrilla bombing have released a prominent Reresponsible for the region in which Ocalan's jail is located.

Italy Plane Crash Kills 4 People

GENOA — A commuter plane with 31 people aboard overshot the runway Thursday in northern Italy and ended up in the sea. Officials said at least four people were killed and that two others were seriously injured.

The Minerva airlines Domier-328 had departed from

A Dublin court Wednesday ordered one man to be held in Blair Faces Trouble, Rival Says

LONDON — Labor voters unhappy with Prime Minister Tony Blair may stay at home in May's elections for a new Scottish Parliament, handing victory to pro-independence nationalists, a nationalist leader predicted Thursday. Alex Salmond, who has pledged to hold a referendum on independence by 2003 if his Scottish National Party emer-

ges as the largest force in the vote, said the party was expected to benefit from the fact that its supporters were far keener to go out to vote than Labor's. Polls show Labor just ahead of the Scottish National

China Vetoes Forces in Taiwan-Friendly Macedonia

UNITED NATIONS — China on Thursday vetoed the renewal of a UN peacekeeping force in Macedonia in retaliation for the Balkan country's recent establishment of diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Russia abstained while the other 13 members of the 15-nation Security Council supported a resolution calling for a six-month renewal of the force in the former he said, alluding to Macedonia's decision last month to Yogoslav republic bordering Serbia's embattled province of Kosovo.

A negative vote by China, which along with the United States, Russia, Britain and France is one of the council's five permanent members, automatically kills any resolution.

The 1,100-member UN Preventive Deployment gion. Force, known as Unpredep, includes about 360 troops from the United States, 640 from Scandinavia and about 50 from Indonesia. It was originally set up in 1992 to deter the spread of fighting to Macedonia from other parts of Yugoslavia.

General Kofi Annan, had called for renewal of the force's mandate until Aug. 31.

China's UN ambassador, Qin Huasun, said Beijing had reservations about the "repeated extension" of the force's mandate but took a "flexible and cooperative" "Now, as known to all, the situation has changed,"

open diplomatic relations with Taiwan - anathema to Beijing, which regards Taiwan as a renegade Macedonia provides logistical support for European

civilian monitors in Kosovo and is a base for North relations with Taiwan. Atlantic Treaty Organization operations in the re-

Speaking before the vote, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Britain's representative at the UN, said he did not think the decision should be based on reasons "extraneous" to the operation of the force. "We believe that Un-predep is necessary," he said. "The area is tense." Diplomats said China's veto means there would be a Despite plans last year to phase it out, the force was retained and strengthened in view of the conflict that

"technical phase-out period" of at least a month year, the mar-rass news agency report in stranged and subgenessed in view of the conflict goes back to a 1944. Erupted in neighboring Kosovo between Yugoslav during which the United States and others would ed. The country goes and ethnic Albanians fighting for inconsider what to do with the force. It could be made dependence. The UN resolution, backed by Secretary- part of NATO or a separate monitoring group ethnic Albanian population.

patrolling borders if needed. Beijing exercised its first veto in nearly 25 years in

January 1997 against the dispatch of 155 UN military observers to monitor peace accords in Guatemala because of that country's diplomatic relations with

China reversed its position two weeks later, after it was presumed to have received a promise that Guatemala would cease backing Taiwan's annual attempt to obtain UN membership.

Previously, China twice threatened to veto the presence of UN troops in Haiti because of that country's This obliged the Security Council to change the

name of the Haiti mission and then get the United States and Canada to pay for the troops. In a report last week recommending the renewal of Unpredep, Mr. Annan expressed satisfaction that Macedonia had not so far been adversely affected by

the conflict in Kosovo. "However, the potential serious repercussions that continued violence in Kosovo could have upon the external and internal security of the country cannot be ignored," he said, referring to Macedonia's large

London Police Vow to Hunt Racist Killers

LONDON — London's police chief vowed Thursday to spend his remaining 10 months in office trying to bring the killers of a black youth to justice after an official report accused his force of incompetence and racism.

Sir Paul Condon, London's Metropolitan Police commissioner, told BBC radio he would make use of "whatever offense we can utilize legally" to hring charges against those responsible for the death of Stephen Lawrence, who was stabbed to death in 1993 while waiting for a bus in southeast London.

"I want the racist thugs to feel hunted," said Sir Paul, who is due to retire at the end of this year. The Lawrence case has focused the

attendon of Britons on amitudes to minority groups within the police ser-The report published Wednesday attacked the police for their investigation

petence, institutional racism and a failure of leadership by senior officers." Fears that the report might increase racial tension were not allayed when a memorial to Mr. Lawrence at the spot where he died was splashed with white paint only hours after the inquiry's findings were published. This is the third

into Mr. Lawrence's murder, speaking of

"a combination of professional incom-

has been defaced. The vandals escaped unseen because a police surveillance camera had no film in it, police said.

time the engraved granite paving stone

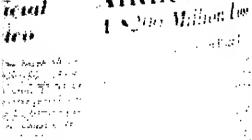
Mr. Lawrence's family have campaigned for justice after police failed to catch and prosecute the killers.

A lawyer for the family said he would take the police to court if they did not quickly offer adequate compensation for conducting what be called an incompetent investigation.

Imran Khan, representing Mr. Lawrence's parents, said he would de-mand compensation "for the way in

which they have been treated during the course of this incompetent and grossly negligent murder investigation.'
"If they don't respond satisfactorily, I

propose to give them seven days, and after that we would then take the matter to court," Mr. Khan said.



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Violations in Kosovo

inconclusive finish to the Kosovo peace talks in France this week, it is easy to forget that a Kosovo deal already exists. It was negotiated by the special ambassador Riehard Hol-brooke last October. It was accepted by the Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic. And it was, ostensibly, to be enforced by NATO.

Now Mr. Milosevic is in gross violation of that deal. The agreement allowed him to keep far too many troops in Kosovo, but be has exceeded even that limit by thousands of special police. He was supposed to keep his troops in garrison, but they have been roaming freely through the countryside. Mr. Milosevic promised a ceasefire, but as, U.S. Ambassador William Walker, chief of the civilian verification team in Kosovo, said on Wednesday. "The cease-fire is a bit of a joke." Nine thousand civilians have been displaced from their homes just in the past nine days; 50,000 in the past two months.

The Serbian dictator promised to release the ethnic Albanians he had detained, but more than 1,500 of them remain in custody, without charges and subject to torture and other abuse. Mr. Milosevic promised to admit war crimes investigators, but he has barred them at the border. "It is almost easier to tist places where they are in com-pliance," Ambassador Walker said.

'It's a short list." The American ambassador also observed that "both sides are totally out of compliance," but that is not quite true. The Kosovo rebels cannot be out of compliance, because they were never included in the October negotiations, nor asked to sign any document. They were informed about Ambassador Holbrooke's talks with .Mr. Mi-

With all the attention paid to the losevic; they were asked to abide by a cease-fire. Their provocations certainly are unhelpful and their attacks on civilians inexcusable, but they are oot in violation. The Serbian forces are in violation.

Senator Chuck Hagel, Republican of Nebraska, asked Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Wednesday how serious Serbian violations would have to be before NATO responded, as it has threatened to do so many times. "Well, we are — we have is-sued various warnings," she replied in testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "NATO, Secretary-General Solana, I believe, did again yesterday, and I believe will do so again."

No doubt be will. But issuing warnings is a sad substitute for policy. The United States government has been issuing warnings since 1992, when President George Bush warned Mr. Milosevic not to wage war against the independence-minded province of Kosovo, and the lesson Mr. Milosevic has drawn thus far is that he need not pay such warnings much mind.

All this is relevant to those inconelusive talks in France, where the Kosovo delegation surprised U.S. mediators by rejecting, until the very last minute, their proposed deal. Mrs. Albright did well to rescue something from the talks, and in coming weeks Kosovo officials may (and should) sign on to the idea of three years of autonomy without independence. But it should come as no surprise that some Kosovo fighters are reluctant to lay down their arms in exchange for a promise of NATO and American protection. They can see, all around them, how much such promises have been worth so far.

-THE WASHINGTON POST.

Economic Growth Requires Good Governance

By Kim Dae Jung and James. D. Wolfensohn

SEOUL — This Friday and Satur-day, Nobel Prize winners, former heads of state, representatives of civil society and preminent academics gather for a conference in Scoul on "Democracy, Market Economy and Development." The goal will be to start a long-overduc discussion on the effects of governance on economic growth. The reason for the conference should be obvious.

Let us begin with a personal note. One of us fought a lifetime for democracy before becoming president of his country. The other, as president of the World Bank, is committed to the

fight against poverty.
As president of Korea, my overriding goal is the political, economic and social health of my country.

As president of the World Bank, my job is to help create a world in which there are fewer hungry children, where economic growth is expanded and made more stable, and where development is driven by the people it is intended to help.

What brings us together in this contrence is the shared goal of under-standing better what conditions pre-cipitate and enhance economic growth. We have had opportunity to talk in the past year about what happened in East Asia, as well as in other parts of the world. We talked at length about our ideas, and our ambitions, for building a global economy open to all people These discussions have been enor-mously fruitful, and we are now trying

to widen the range of ideas.
We started with what we got right. We have known for years that widely shared economic growth depends on a range of factors. Governments must make investments in basic health care strong anti-corruption policies.

and education within the context of sound economic policies, strengthened infrastructure, safer air and water, and modern technologies to convey and share knowledge. These principles were at the heart of the remarkable economic success that East Asia

achieved in the past decades. Multilateral institutions do much to support these programs by assisting governments with a comprehensive approach to development, generating partnerships and broadening the exchange of ideas and experiences.

But, as we have seen in East Asia in the last 18 months, this is not enough:

Effective, accessible public institutions are a necessary condition for stable growth.

Development is about more than the right policies; even about more than good social investments. Development, in short, requires good gov-emance, meaning open, transparent, accountable public institutions.

In a market economy, growth, if it is to be lasting, must be regulated — not overregulated, but guided by public institutious and private professional conduct which establish a foundation of transparency and fairness in economic life. There is no substitute for this transparency. This means accessible courts, effective bankruptcy laws, sound securities and competition regimes, and

We have, thankfully, moved beyond stale debates about whether government is good or bad for market economies. All agree that effective, accessible public institutions are not just conducive to but a necessary condition. for stable growth.

Governments, therefore, must contime to reform. But not just governments. Principles of integrity and accountability are equally important for the private sector. The argument that dynamic growth requires a sacrifice in transparency and accountability has, at long last, been buried. Free markets cannot work behind elosed doors.

Markets will place great pressure on the private sector to reform. A prominent investment bank, for example, recently highlighted corporate governance as a primary factor in its investment recommendations in East Asia; and Standard and Poors is increasing its focus on corporate governance practices when issuing debt ratings for corpo-rations as well as countries.

In a world market that pivots on the speed and perceived credibility of information, journalists must be free to uncover market information, both good and bad, and stock exchanges must be able to provide data instantaneously. Governments and business must work together to ensure that such informatioo is available.

The Seoul conference comes at a propitious time. First, we have in East Asia a unique opportunity to fix the problems we know need fixing. This window will not be open forever. The promising indications of recovery we are seeing are a testament to the hard work of Koreans and of other

people throughout the region. But we have much more work to do.

Policy Pa

We must oot let this opportunity slip, nor should we allow a return to positive growth to tempt us into forgetting the fundamental institutional reforms so occessary to ensuring good governance

and transparency.
Secood, the world is watching what we do here. We can set the tone for what a future global marketplace will look like. As world leaders prepare to draft a global financial and economic architecture, we must step forward and insist upon a shared set of principles that will provide the ground rules for that marketplace.

No country can have reforms or practices imposed externally. It does oot work. Korea will differ from India which will differ from Australia. But surely we can agree that transparency in financial markets is central; that court systems should be open and accessible to all people; that credit and financial services should be available to women.

The global economy must, in short, be open to all people if it is to endure. We must have confidence in the integrity of markets and the probity of those who run them, in both the public and private sector.

Finally, people are demanding change, Financial crises are really human crises. Politicians can no longer ignore the manifest urgency of building economic development in parallel with an environment of social and human justice. This has profound implications. People simply will not support a world economy which is exclusively about growth rates and private capital flows. It must be about more than that.

Expertise Not for China

Crackdown in Cuba

Herald Eribune

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Washington's past carelessness in licensing satellite sales to China may have damaged America's security. This week the Clinton administration drew the right lessons from its mistakes. It denied Hughes Space and Communications approval to sell a mobile communications satellite to a company closely tied to the Chinese military. As the Pentagon reasonably feared, the satellite sale could have improved the reach of Chinese military communications in Asia and helped China refine its rocket technology. Washingtoo should encourage American civilian commerce with China. But it must tightly control advanced

military technology. China is not a global military rival of the United States as the Soviet Uoion was during the Cold War. But Beijing has its own military agenda that sometimes conflicts with that of the United States. Military cooperation with China should not extend to satellites or the rocket boosters used to lift

Hughes wanted to sell its satellite to a private husiness consortium in Singapore. But the Pentagon learned that top officials of that consortium were

A political leader with the interests

of his hard-pressed population at heart

would have made the most of President

Bill Clinton's recent extension of hu-

manitarian, personal and cultural con-

lacts with the Cuban people. But not the Communist dictator Fidel Castro.

Instead of permitting citizens mod-

est relief, he tightened the existing

restrictions on contacts with the United

States. Given a fresh choice in alternate

post-Cold War circumstances between improving the lot of his people and

protecting his power, he has again chosen the Stalinist way.

and investment and n stiffening. The

American political debate unfortu-

Still, the visit to Cuba by Pope John Paul II a year earlier had kindled hopes

that Mr. Castro was now inclined to

extend certain personal liberties and

contacts. It seemed possible that he

could live with these initiatives with-

out being paralyzed by the thought

President Clinton made a gesture of

of losing power.

The hopes were misguided.

nately leaves little room for more.

The Clinton offer of January in-

Chinese military officers working for China's own satellite agency. The State Department also was uneasy about the sale, because Hughes engineers had tutored Chinese scientists in improved rocket launehing methods in 1995 in an episode that is now the

subject of a criminal inquiry.

The White House invited trouble when it put the Commerce Department in charge of Chinese satellite licenses in 1996. Next mooth a new law passed over administration opposition will re-store licensing authority to the State Department.

But problems with technology transfers to China go back much further. Last year a Congressional inquiry found that in the past two decades China acquired some of America's most sensitive military secrets, incloding nuclear weapons designs.

European companies may now step in to sell China what Hughes cannot. But their technology is less advanced. The United States is the world leader in satellite telephone communications and rocket technology. This expertise should not be made available to China's armed forces.

acknowledgment of the Pope's crit-

icism of the embargo as unjust. Mr.

Castro responded by enacting a "Law

for the Protection of Cuba's National

Independence and Economy." It

threatens penalties of 10 or 20 years for

any Cuban citizen who in the regime's

eyes lends himself to the "subversive"

-THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Americans Have Not Decided What to Be in the World

PARIS — From the mouth of Madeleine Albright at Rambouillet, the United States sounds very tough and determined to lead a coalition of muscular power. The secretary of state more or less took over the last round of talks about Kosovo, and while the "ultimate deadline" for either agreement or NATO bombing was put off once more, she did

seem to force progress toward a compromise settlemeot. · To hear leading Republican strategists, the Clintoo administratioo is going too far out on a limb and will not be able to sustain congressional and public support for its interventionist, shape-up-the-world ideas.

To hear editors, academics, politicians, Americans are not interested in foreign news and do oot want to be involved in foreign quarrels, like Kosovo. Parents of American teenagers say they worry that intervcotionism will lead to sending more and more troops abroad and to renewal of conscription. The signals are completely

mixed. For the French, the United States has become the "hyper-power" determined to ask for the document. tell everybody else what to do. Ironically, France has moved from the traditional Gaullist insistence on independence and going its own way as the best counter to what it fears as American hegemony to a new insistence on multilateralism. It is an admission that it takes conscious group pressure to keep American power conperative. France can't block it alone.

There is a remarkable gap between the role that America seems to seek in the world, when

it talks of leadership and a new strategic concept, for NATO to meet assorted global challenges, and how Americans see themselves. The end of the Cold War has not brought any clear idea of what to do now. A curious Defense Depart-

ment announcement indicates that some people are trying to think up ways to simplify attitudes once again and mobilize patriotic urges. Starting on April 5, the U.S. Army will take applications for a certificate stating that "in recognition of your-service during the period of the Cold War (Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991) in promoting peace and stability for this Nation, the people of this Natioo

are forever grateful." From 18 to 22 million members of U.S. armed forces in that period and an unestimated number of federal civilian employees are eligible, the announcement said, although it foresaw that only about a million would

The date given starting the Cold War immediately after the end of World War II and a brief, strangely distorted history of the confrontation add to the peculiar impression. A call to the Pentagon's office of public affairs to ask whose idea this was and why it is suddenly proposed now produced only increasingly irritated repetition of the announcement, and the charge that

By Flora Lewis

the questions were "hostile." So the explanation can only be speculative. The armed services are all concerned about a lack of recruits that is leaving ships shorthanded and units undermanned, forcing a reduction of enlistment standards.

But the reason is obviously nearly full employment, not lost dreams of glory that a certificate might revive.

There are signs of oostalgia for what, in fuzzy memory, seems to be Cold War unity of purpose and support for the military. It is intriguing to wonder what the authors of this idea (the certificates will be signed by the United States intends to do."
Defense Secretary William Co-these days. Or rather there is

hen) thought they would achieve but it is evident that the Pentagon feels it is losing connection with civil society.

The Clinton administration has proposed a considerable increase in military spending over the next five years. Right-wing Republicans are demanding even more. But the arguments made are a combination of porkbarrel benefits for various congressional constituencies and exotic notions such as "cataclysmic terrorism" and strategic missile defense, not the pay raises and readiness support that the military really wants.

There simply is not much basis for saying 'here is what the United States intends to do"

some basis for a whole series of contradictory descriptions, from imperial diktar to utter disinterest. Not onless there is some huge new challenge, much worse than anything on the current horizon, are foreign affairs and U.S. relations with others likely to be a major issue in the next election campaign. Americans are not all that sure

about what they want to be and what they are prepared to do for it. If the Pentagon's Cold War summary is reflective, the past is already a big hiur and the present is a puzzle. In these circumstances, America's partners can have more influence than they suppose, if they do know the kind of world they want to see.

Think It Through and Then Explain

WASHINGTON - Long neglected in American governance is the presidential competence. That executive reach used to be displayed at the once formal news conference. Reporters ask some 20 questions; the president, who has prepared answers for four times

that many, fields them adroitly. To prepare for "question time," as parliamentarians call it, a president's entire administration is forced to make foreign and domestic policy decisions. This discipline creates agonized; late-night sessions

throughout the bureaucracy. That is the serious husiness By William Safire

demonstration of wide-ranging of running the country. But since he burdened the nation with the Lewinsky affair, Mr. Clinton has been in relative seclusion; the last formal East Room news conference was 10 months ago. He had excuses. His lawyers would not let him; the press corps would focus on the scandal. But because his hibernation from access eoincided with a rise in his job approval rating, the tradition of regular questioning has been called into question.

Another useful tool for governing well has been all hut abandoned: the thoughtful speech. Not the hourlong State of the Union blockbuster that touches on everything and deals with nothing. Not the fourminute radio spot that urges reduced class sizes.

Missing are the serious addresses that get little coverage but show that the administration has an economic philosophy or an intellectual framework for its

"I" word. But reviving the national radio address, recalling FDR's usage, was my baby back in the campaign of 1968. As the press was rolling its eyes at the Nixon stump speech, we astounded eggheaded critics with a weekly series of substantive,

20-minute radio speeches. Drove 'em batty, having to slog through philosophical rumination trying to find a lead. But such mental ferment and

internal debate help the man at the top figure out where he wants to take the nation. Mr. Clinton, the reputed policy work, is presumably capable of this.

On Kosovo, Americans do not need a nibble about NATO solidarity, or four minutes of dire warnings about rubbery deadlines. We need someone to explain which lessons drawn from Bosnia apply to Serbia.

What is our military role in a Europe no longer faced with a Soviet threat? What does America expect from NATO outside Europe? When does a confirmed multilateralist go it alone? What sacrifices in blood and treasure are we prepared to make to help Palestinians and Kurds and Kosovars and African tribes achieve — what? Independence? Autonomy? Unity? Are

all civil wars intolerable? Maybe sober analysis would be met with a national yawn, or comes too late for the present White House residents as they devise their excunt strategies. But we can hope that future presidents will restore the traditions of answering and ex-plicating that will help them think more deeply and govern more effectively.

Now, Turkey's Biggest Challenge

proposals of the United States. This is how Mr. Castro means to handle the brave and small but seemingly irreducible number of dissidents. including independent journalists who do our calling proud.

At face it is strange that Mr. Castro

should think that the contact proposals cluded small steps designed to wiggle between an easing of the lonely, long-standing American embargo on trade could contribute to his overthrow. This is a man who by combining police rule and Cuban nationalism has endured to him his greatest triumph — everything the United States could throw

against him in nearly 40 years. But, having survived an invasion and many assassination plots, Fidel Castro may wonder whether he can also survive the belated American effort to help construct a civil society of non-Communist social and interest groups. The Cuban dictator may know better than anyone what his vulnerabilities are.

-THE WASHINGTON POST.

TSTANBUL — Abdullah By Mehmet Ali Birand even if the capture of Mr. Ocalan, leader of the PKK. probably never dreamed that he would be captured alive by the Turkish authorities. He was

obsessed with his safety. When I first interviewed him in 1985 in the Bekaa, he told me that in the event of an ambush he had ordered his bodyguards to kill him rather than let him be captured by the Turks.

The ordinary Turk is just as surprised. People did not think they would ever see the country's most wanted criminal. captured alive and being held

in a Turkish prison.

Mr. Ocalan traumatized Turkey for 15 years. Hc commanded a guerrilla group re-sponsible for 30,000 deaths and at least 50,000 wounded. The monetary cost of this struggle has added up to \$65 billion, it has otherwise taken a horrific toll on the country — millions of people have been uprooted from their village homes, and Turks have had to live with rampant in-

flation of around 85 percent. The war has also tom the country apart. The population has been polarized, while buman rights and democratic process have been, in many ways, shelved. The conflict has bred a sense of hopelessness, and Turkey has been weakened both within and without its borders.

Most importantly, PKK terror has prevented Turkey from tackling the core of the Kurd-

Ocalan, however, we are witnessing a spectacular change of mood and attitude. After all these long years, the country is suddenly awash with the hope that it might be able to solve the one problem that has been hampering our development for so long. There is a new self-confidence and excitement in the air.

People who previously held altogether opposed views on how to deal with the problem are now coming together. There is a widespread feeling of a new page being turned in Turkish history, of a chance for a completely new start. Even the most militant among Turks, those who held out for a total military solution, are now voicing sentiment that it

is time to change. The immediate matter on everyone's mind is that Mr. Ocalan be tried in a manner that will be deemed fair in international circles. Public opinion is very sensitive on this issue. People are excited about being able finally to prove to the world that the old charges against Turkey have not been true, that despite its many shortcomings Turkey operates

The second challenge facing Turkey is how it will tackle the Kurdish problem. Everyone now seems to understand that the task at hand

m a just and legal manner.

Ocalan represents a tremendous blow for the PKK, it does oot automatically spell the end of the resistance movement. But it is believed that if the

country goes into action now it will be able to free itself from the swamp in which it has been stuck for so long. To do this it must quickly set into motion a number of cultural, social and economic reforms and must be willing to pass in short order a law granting some sort of amnesty to those living in the mountains or wasting in prisons who have not been guilty of heinous crimes. The restrietive laws that are part of the State of Emergency Act must be relaxed.

It was not long ago that mere discussion of such steps provoked long debate. Many believed that such actions, taken before PKK terror had been brought under control, would be a sign of weakness or capitulation. This attitude is now changing.

A broad consensus is forming. It encompasses the military, political hard-liners. members of the press corps and even ordinary citizens who have lost relatives to PKK terror. Turks hope that a cleaning of the slate can solve the Kurdish problem. This is the biggest challenge facing the country.

The writer, a Turkish journalist and commentator, conis to solve the Kurdish prob- tributed this comment to the With the capture of Mr. lem. A general view is that International Herald Tribunc.

foreign policy. Whoops! I just used the dread

The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Swedish Civility

PARIS — General Rappe, the Swedish Minister of War, was placed under arrest for a curious offence. A few days ago, the people were astonished at beholding the Minister of War walking in uniform, surmounted by a shiny "topper," instead of the regulation cocked hat and feathers. Unconscious of his grotesque appearance, the general walked into the Palace. Nothwithstanding the Royal smiles, BRUSSELS — Winston General Rappe was ordered to remain under arrest for three days for his absent-mindedness.

1924: Female Presence

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial: There will be 500 women delegates in the Democratic National Convention. To every trio of male delegates there will be one female delegate. This

chairman of the women's branch of the Democratic party. "The fact that they are women will not change the proceedings. Occupational bias (interest of women in home affairs) will play no part in the party platform." Mrs. Blair adds: These women would not have been chosen had they not shown the same ability as the men."

1949: Grip of Tyranny

Churchill said that "the ultimate purpose " of the move-ment to unify western Europe was the "deliverance" of Continental peoples held io the grip of a tyranny more permanently devastating than that of Hitler." Speaking at the first council of the European Movement, Mr. Churchill addressed the "deliverance" part of his suggests the motive of a state-ment made by Mrs. Emily Blair, land, Romania and Yugoslavia.

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OPINION/LETTERS



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Wise Tax Policy Promotes Sharing in Good Times

By Frank Levy and Iris J. Lav

Kennedy often said, referring to the power of economic growth. Republicans have often cited his words in their recent push for a 10 percent across-the-board cut in the U.S. income tax. Much to their surprise, however, voters have been cool to their idea, which has been portrayed as a tax cut for the rich, and party leaders seem to be backing off.

Why haven't Americans responded to the former president's although they pay other federal-logic? A rising tide is a strong taxes. So parents supporting two metaphor, but an honest economist will tell you that growth is not always so beneficent. In Mr. Kennedy's time, a lack of formal education was no obstacle to getling a good job. A farm laborer, displaced by mechanization, could get on a bus to a city and find a factory job at higher pay.

Today, the economy beavily favors the better educated. Now, when technology or trade displaces a semi-skilled worker. moving to a good job means getting the training to become a computer repairman or a laboratory just getting on a bus.

In the past two years, very tight abor markets bave raised all American workers' wages. But in the past two decades, the labor market has changed much faster than people have been able to change their skills.

Less educated men and women take a double hit: They are the workers most hurt by change, and they are the parents who must make the biggest improvements in their children's educations to highest incomes who have already avoid repeating the cycle.

Since good times do not auto- strong economy, matically benefit everyone, win- . extra income to compensate people will stop supporting policies that encourage growth. In practice, this means that tax

policy should work to soften not reinforce - the distribution of may all be losers then the benefits of growth. The Republican leaders' proposed tax cut would work in the

opposite direction. It would increase income inequality.
A study conducted by the In-

NEW YORK — "A rising ode \$90,000 would receive more than lifts all boats," John F. 55 percent of the benefits of this across-the-board cut --- an average of \$3,000 a housebold.

The three-fifths of taxpayers with incomes below about \$38,000 would receive a little more than 10 percent of the benefits — an average of \$100 a household.

And then there are the nearly 35 million households, 27 percent of all taxpayers, with incomes too low to pay any federal income tax, children on earnings of less than \$25,000 a year would get no help at all from the Republican plan.

This is not the time to make income inequality worse. Few economists believe a large tax cut is the best use of the budget surplus. But if Congress wants a modest tax cut for these prosperous omes, it should focus on helping low-i and moderate-income families. No standard strategy a cut in income tax rates, a new deduction, a nonrefundable credit accomplishes this goal.

If a new plan includes a tax technician — a harder move than credit, it should provide a refund check to families paying no income tax, much as the current earned income tax credit does.

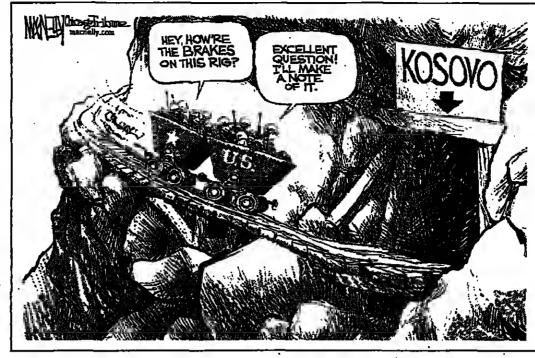
President Bill Clinton's proposal for universal savings accounts, which would provide subsidized savings for low- and moderate-income workers, similar to 401 (k) plans, could accomplish this goal. In addition, the tax cut should

provide few if any benefits to the 10 percent of taxpayers with the secured the largest gains from the

Cootinued growth depends on ners need to use some of their maintaining support for markets - and building a bealthy base for losers. If they do not, then more the time when the economy is no longer stellar. If winners see no reason to compensate losers during the good times, free markets will lose in the long run — and we

Fronk Levy, on economist at the Massochusetts Institute of Technology, is outhor of "New Dollors ond Dreams." Iris J. Liav is deputy A study conducted by the In-stitute on Taxation and Economic and Policy Priorities, They con-Policy showed that the 10 perceot tributed this comment to The New of taxpayers with incomes above ... York Times.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Asio and the Commonwealth of

Independent States region.

Robert D. Kaplon:

The Unsettled Mideast

Regording "Turks oud Kurds:

Here Comes n Turbulent New

Mideost" (Opinion, Feb. 23) by

Mr. Kaplan is right that the Kurdish problem "lifts the curtain

on the 21st century in the Middle

East," but he does not go far

enough. The Kurdish question

could bave hage implications for

Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states,

as well as Turkey, Syria, Iraq and

cades-old demand for Kurdish

self-determination risks encour-

aging fundamentalism and sep-

aratism throughout the region, as

well as territorial conquests by

countries anxious to control "ter-

conflict. On present form, the Pal-

estinians, like the Kurds, will still

lands to settlement by their neigb-

threat of economic, and possibly

PAMELA ANN SMITH.

London.

oil prices continue to stagnate.

Alas, Mr. Kaplan is wrong in

rorism" and water resources.

A failure to resolve the de-

Monitoring Food Aid

Regarding the editorial "North Koreon Challenge" (Feh. 16):

The allegations that food aid is diverted to the army and party cadres in North Korea are at odds with the World Food Program's experience in distributing food there. The World Food Program carefully monitors the distribution of its food aid in North Korea, both upon arrival in the ports and at the institutions through which assistance is provided.

We premise our aid npon access to North Korea's counties for monitoring purposes; if we do not get access to a county, it does not get our food.

This monitoring has shown that our food aid reaches the intended beneficiaries: children aged from six months to 10 years, pregnant women, oursing mothers and hos-pital patients. Under our current operation, we are feeding about 6

The food commodities we provide -- chiefly maize and wbeat - are of no interest to members of the army or ruling elite. They prefer rice, and they bave prime access to it. In any humanitarian operation,

there will be some minor losses or diversions, but it is misleading to suggest that in North Korea significant amounts of food are going unaccounted for,

JUDY CHENG-HOPKINS.

The writer is the World Food Crime and Punishment Program regiónol director for In response to the report "Ex-

ecimon Goes Ahead in the Philippincs" (Feb. 6):

The debate in the Philippines on the application of the death penalty centered on capital punish-ment as a deterrent. No effort should be spared to effectively punish crime and protect public safety, while also rehabilitating criminals. There is no need to put anyone to death. The increasing crime rate is nothing but a mani-festation of the breakdown of moral values, A concerted effort by parents, schools, the government, religious communities and the mass media is needed to reconstruct the moral base of society. ROSE CATACUTAN.

About a Library-Helper

In Response to "Doing Well by Doing Good" (Businessi Finonce,

The article cites criticism of suggesting that the Kurdish ques-Bill Gates's philanthropy through the Gates Learning Foundation. tion may supplant the Arab-Israeli which provides for public-access computers in libraries. Where I live, library users are charged a yearly fee, which entitles them to be subject to occupation and their bors. To that must be added the borrow one book at a time and to access the Internet. I wish we had political disruption in the Gulf as something like the Gates Learning Foundation to criocize. RUBIN KRETCHMAN.

Kiryat Motzkin, Israel.

A Horror Beyond Bearing, While Once Crowds Came

By Brent Staples

of justice this week when one of the white supremacists who dragged Mr. Byrd to death behind a pickup truck was found guilty of firstdegree murder in Jasper, Texas.

Mr. Byrd had been beaten. But the prosecution showed that he was alive when John William

MEANWHILE

King and two other men chained bim to the bumper and raced three miles along a logging trail and a blacktop road.

During the dragging, Mr. Byrd turned over and over to relieve the pain as his flesh was torn away and his skeleton was ground up on the blacktop. He finally died a mile and a balf out, when the truck took a sudden turn and his head and arm were severed by a metal culvert.

These facts are beyond bearing for anyone with an ounce of human feeling. But the salutary lesson of this case is that what Americans deem acceptable can change dramatically from one period to the next. What virtually everyone views as barbaric today was regarded as commonplace and even as acceptable entertainment a

half-century ago.

Lynching, for example, began during Reconstruction as a method for intimidating former slaves who were attempting to vote and ex-ercise their human rights. Nearly 4,000 Americans were lynched from 1880 to 1930, according to the records center at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama - many of them burned, tortured, mutilated or dragged, like Mr. Byrd.

The victims were often affluent

men and women who had competed with and angered the white establishment. The main actors were usually people like John William King, aimless young men in their teens and 20s, marginal to society, with anger to bum. The bloody work they performed was often attended by crowds who came for entertainment.

The lynchings peaked in 1892. then 161 of them took place, or nearly one every other day. Among the victims that year were three young Memphis businessmen who had apparently generated enmity among their white

At that time the editor of the

NEW YORK — The family of Memphis Negro paper, called James Byrd Jr. got a measure called Free Speech, was Ida Wells. called Free Speech, was ida Wells. Miss Wells, then 23, protested the killings, attributing them to whate competitors of the black businessmen. After she spoke out, a white mob destroyed the paper's offices, forcing her to flee. Later, in New York, she published her pamphlet Southern Horrors.

She described the lynchings in a documentary style, using the words of participants. Of an 1899 lynching in Maysville, Kentucky, she wrote: "William Coleman was burned to death ... slowly roasted, first one loot and then the other, and dragged out ... so that the torture night be prolonged." As the lynching crowds grew.

she wrote: "Not only has life been taken by mobs in the last 20 years but the ordinary procedure of hanging and shooting have been improved upon during the last 10

Nearly 4,000 Americans were lynched from 1880 to 1930.

years. Fifteen human beings have been bumed 10 death in different parts of the country by mobs. Men, women and children have all gone to see the sight, and all have approved the barbarous deeds done in the high light of Christianity. Through work like this, Miss

Wells rallied anti-lynching sentiment. But of tens of thousands of lynchers and watchers, only 49 were indicted and only four sentenced to jail up to 1930. The couris, the police and even the local clergy adopted an attitude of silent acquiescence.

The only solace in the Jasper affair is that a town and a country that would once have viewed this death as unremarkable have been repelled by it.

The New York Times

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How did you secure this copy of the LH.T.?

EIMAR, Germany -Facing off like identical twins, a pair of two-story houses, crisscrossed with latticework trellises, stare across at one another in Weimar's rolling castle park. According to Gahriele Gerecke, one of the organizers of Weimar as the European City of Culture for 1999, Goethe's authentic garden house and its re-created double are a deconstructionist puzzle.

How does the aura of the copy differ from the original, she mused? As if two houses were oot enough, the replica also contains a virtual-reality simulation of the great philosopher's summer retreat. Visitors can compare the auras of all three." quipped Gerecke with a remark-

ably straight face. Trust Weimar, an unlikely European cultural mecca on the way to nowhere in particular, to conjure a blend of German literary classicism and New Age selfreflection served up with a dose of cy-

Weimar lives oo its aura. For a town with a mere 60,000 inhabitants, there is probably more concentration of German social, political and cultural history than

anywhere else in the country.

Apart from Goethe and his frequent collaborator, the poet and playwright Friedrich Schiller. Weimar is the town of Bach and Liszt. Luther and Nietzsche, both elder and younger Lucas Cranachs and Walter Gropius's Bauhaus.

It is also where the liberal Weimar Republic was declared in 1919, yet where the Nazis were elected first in Germany 13 years later, and soon erected the Buchenwald concentration camp, 10 kilometers (6 miles) outside of

It was precisely the town's maddeningly conflicted legacy that led the European Union to designate Weimar as cultural capital, the first in a former Soviet bloc country

Another compelling reason was that 1999 is rife with anniversaries for this well-preserved baroque town on the Ilm River. It is the 250th anniversary of Goethe's birth in 1749, the 80th year since the founding of the Weimar Republic, the 50th year since the establishmeot of the Soviet-controlled German Democratic Republic and the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin

To celebrate its place in the sun of European culture, Weimar is throwing a yearlong party of art exhibitions, concerts, and dance and theater performances by international and German par-



violinists Anne-Sophie Muner and Pinchas Zuckerman, Daniel Barenboim and Leooard Slatkin separately conducting the Berlin Philharmonic, and Yehudi Menuhin directing the Warsaw Sym-

Dance groups slated to perform include Nacho Duaro's Compania Nacional de Danza from Madrid, the Hamhurg anne and Gauguin. Ballet, the Cullberg Ballet from Stockholm, Grupo Corpo from Brazil, whirling dervish Sufi dancers from Turkey and the Elisa Monte company from New

A European Union-Japan festival opens April 3 with performances by the Tokyo Ballet, taiko drummers and fire-

Goethe's "Faust." naturally enough, is served up in several adaptations — bourgeois home displays period fur-ooe called "F@ust version 3.0" with an niture replicas made by concentration

against a backdrop of music by Peter been placed in storage in case of at-Gabriel and Brian Eno.

"The Rise and Fall of the Modern" is one of 20 art exhibitions and blends works by Edvard Munch, Wassily Kand-nent museum devoted to contemporary insky, Paul Klee and Lyonel Feininger art in the former East Germany. In-— all of whom who lived in or near augurated in January, the Neues Mu-Weimar — with pieces by Monet, Cez-seum is boused in a neoclassical pile

CONFRONTING A LEGACY

To the city's credit, the events proram is not flinching from Weimar's Nazi and East German past and is staging a number of exhibitions and performances to confront its 20th-century legacy of repression.

In one grim exposition, Schiller's Among the classical artists are the Internet Mephistopheles soul-searching camp inmates. The original pieces had

The latest addition to Weimar culture is the Neues Museum, the first permahuilt in 1869 originally to showcase the collection of the grand duke of Saxe- sculptures ironically linking museums to Weimar-Eisenach. It was the site of the banks, and Sylvie Fleury's fur-covered first Bauhaus exhibition and later served as Nazi headquarters,

The Cologne art dealer Paul Maenz, who earned his reputation searching out cutting-edge artists of the 1970s and 1980s, donated his extensive collection of 600 paiolings, drawings, objects and installations. About 100 works will be on display at any one time.

Among the more important pieces are enormous canvasses by Anselm Kiefer

that attempt to-exorcise the country's Nazi past, wry aestheoc meditations by Gnilio Paolini, minimalist installadoos, by Carl Andre and Donald Judd, and conceptual works by Joseph Kosuth and the English artists known as "Art & Language." Keith Haring's whimsical cartoons, Pipelotti Rist's oversize furniture and kitschy videos, Jiri Dokupil's starship inject a touch of huroor into the

Maenz intends for the museum and its unfamiliar art to stir controversy. "These people bave not been encouraged to think for themselves, to assert their opinions for 70 years," the collector said. "Perhaps this contemporary art in their midst will give them a starting

Weimar could do worse than reviving wald, . .

the animated artistic scene that thrived in Goethe's day. Under the generous pa-tronage of Karl August, duke of Saxc-Weimar, and his widowed mother Anna Amalia, Goethe turned his house on the Frauenplan into an ongoing salon where he entertained and was entertained by Hegel, Thackeray, Mendelssoho and Madame de Stael among other European cultural lights.

'Noble be man, caring and good," was his credo and no one better exemplified it than the polymathic Goethe bimself, the naturalist, philosopher, poet and playwright who took time out from his day job as privy councillor and from his inexhaustibly eclectic research to give scientific instruction to a handful of privileged students.

Under Goethe's guidance, the duke acquired a oumber of German and Italian Renaissance treasures, including works by Cranach, Durer, Tintoretto and Veronese now in the castle museum. Paintings by Caspar David Friedrich, Monet and Max Beckmann round out the ec-

LONG the edge of the castle park sits the Liszt House, the former gardener's cottage where the peripatetic composer re-treated for summer months between sojourns in Rome and Budapest, Inside, amidst gilt mirrors and plush velvet couches, the magisterial virtuoso gave master classes seated at the Becbstein grand piano that takes up balf the

As an antidote to what Liszt dubbed the "Wagnerian deluxe" decor of his apartment, a gibe at his son-in-law Richard's grandiose tastes, the Baubaus museum in the center of town delivers right angles, primary colors and pure geo-metry. From Gyula Pap's slender bronze and silver pitchers to Marcel Breuer's signature nesting tables in blue, red, yellow and silver and Oskar Schlemmer's comical costumes that made actors look like toy tops, the Bauhaus was out to overturn the estahlished order. Stuffy Weimar reacted in kind, driving Gropius and company out in 1925.

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Outside of town, on a hillside with a sweeping panorama of unrivaled beauty. the Nazis carved out the Buchenwald concentration camp, where more than 50,000 people died of starvation, torture and induced typhoid experiments. The Nobel Prize-winning author Elie Wiesel was one inmate who survived; the theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was one who did not.

In this town so full of the aura of genius. Goethe's noble man is forever shadowed by the specter of Buchen-

schlemiel named Andy (Jon Lovitz). For-

Zen and the Art of Household Maintenance

By Kaori Shoji

OKYO — To young Tokyo urbanites "home" used to be a dirty word. It represented all the things they wanted to escape from: dreariness, clunered confusion and boring housework. The less time spent there the better, and people did everything they could to avoid it. In fact, according to consumer research polls, this was largely the teason why Japanese put in so much overtime.

The manufacturers of household products sought to rectify the situation. They released one nifty, time-saving electronic gadget after another and decorated them with pictures of flowers and cute animals.

The idea was that consumers could buy into the decor as well as the function, and this would ultimately cheer up the household. Sadly, the ploy only enhanced the

tastelessness and floral electronics added to the long list of all that was wrong with the Japanese home. Whenever cartoon artists drew a depressed housewife they drew her alongside an electric water pot, patterned with pastel flowers.

Then in 1980, "Mujirusbi Ryohin" (All Value, No Frills) was launched by the Seibu conglomerate in a mighty effort to change the urban borne.

"Muji," as it is affectionately called, is defined by two things: the streamlined simplicity of the individual product and the sheer number and di-versity of the product range. Everything from baby wipes and tricycles to flarware and fumilure, cosmetics and business suits to packaged, precooked food is stylishly arranged on plain

Muji is a retail phenomenon with a commonsense aesthetics can at times mission. When they said no frills, they be over the top. meant it, with a vengeance. Not only is blues, grays, whites and blacks.

polyester, cedar, paper and aluminum. ous and compact to suit the cramped living conditions of the average Tokyo circa 1944. Muji's passion for simpliapartmeot. (Two crowning achieve- city seems less designed than dictated. meots are the cardboard chest and the and the severity of the products often

canvas fold-away closet)
In short. Muji re-educated the Japanese on what it was like to live with if only for slashing prices and sugZen, exhorting the harmony between gesting an alternative lifestyle.

hleached paper bags and organic has way to go when it comes to doing things been the operative word.

way to go when it comes to doing things been the operative word. stoicism, desigo and comfort. Muji became the byword in affordable home Muji's experiments in this field have sumer is not huying anything. Muji stop them. furnishings, and according to a poll by the fashion magazine "Chou Chou."

Still, just as a Zen diet of miso soup and brown rice can start to pall, Muji's over with the manufacturer's logo.



wooden shelves and serenely awaiting Muji sliops, a no-frills retail phenomenon, draw crowds in Japan as though the recession never happened.

The fashion critic Seiichi Kato has Its main materials are natural cotton, The furniture: affordable hut overemphasizing the functional. Details such perfect for a fascist propaganda movie. and retailed at about a dollar per unit. altenates first-time consumers.

This especially applies to foodstuffs: come change for the consumer who is London and Paris.

alism tends to override the fun of buy-reputedly a fan of Muji tank tops. And ing. A precooked curry kit, for ex- the French designer Corinne Sarrut frivolity nowhere to be seen, but colors called it "Stalinesque." He could be have also been banished, save for dark right. Take the clothing line: durable but furniture polish than anything to eat. In devoid of fine lines or textural decor. other cases, the simplicity matches the product perfectly. One of its all-time, best-selling snacks is the jam sandwich items, it would seem that there is oo Everything is deliberately inconspicu- as kitchen products and lamps would be cookie, stacked neatly in a vinyl tube longer an excuse for anyone to huy a

> ND oo domestic retailer has Nevertheless. Muji deserves credit. chases were put in recycled, un- and enjoy borne life, they have a long

been revolutionary. Available in the sbops contioue to draw crowds as

Giorgio Armani has said that Muji is Kaori Shoji is a writer based in the one shop in Tokyo that he finds Tokyo.

Here again, its passion for function- interesting. The model Kate Moss is

Now with 250 Muji outlets nationwide selling a total of 3,850 different floral patterned electrooic gadget and be depressed.

Not so, says the lifestyle commenmarched with the times like tator Hiroko Ogiwara: "Though the Muji. From its inception, pur- Japanese have learned to appreciate In a time when the Japanese coo-tasteless bome electronics, you can't

But then, the same applies to Muji. the fashion magazine "Chou Chou." simplest of packages labeled with noth80 percent of Tokyo dwellers under 35 ing more than a terse description of have bought a Muji product at least what is inside. Muji foods are a welhave bought a Muji product at least what is inside. Muji foods are a welwith a total of 10 outlets in Hong Kong.

Its next project is rumored to be a mailorder, DIY kit for a house, complete
with a total of 10 outlets in Hong Kong.

MOVIE

VERY BAD THINGS Directed by Peter Berg. U.S. "Very Bad Things," written and directfunny as the character who winds up a double amoutee in its closing scene. And that's the way Berg seems to want it. Inspired by the insight that packs of guys visiting Las Vegas can behave stupidly. Berg creates dull middle-class buddles in the throes of a bachelor party. Then he watches a little bitty mishap (the stripper's violent death) escalate into big trou-ble. It's hard to know which is more clever, the stripper's bare corpse in stiletto boots (one of the camera's fain which her backed-up body parts are Berg's screenplay doeso't have black comic possibilities as it wreaks increas-Favreau) and Laura (Cameron Diaz). Really, there's oo reason not to share the script's eagerness to see most of these smug or witless individuals wind up dead. But Berg's listless direction brings the film so little point of view that it doeso't much matter who lives or dies. There's oot even much shock value to the story itself, a kind of Dockers-clad "Lord of the Flies." Once the five men on the Vegas spree wind up with blood all over their botel bathroom, "Very Bad Things" mirthfully watches things get worse. It turns out that one of these friends is a crazed, boastful loose cannon, and that Christian Slater is not exactly miscast io this role. (He is also one of the film's executive producers.) Forget about Diaz, because the movie does. Funny as ages it all too well. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

HAPPINESS

Directed by Todd Solond: U.S. The first sly joke in Todd Solondz's blistering and brilliant satire of Ozzie and Harriet's American dream is the flagrant irony of its title. The name "Happiness" may oot represent truth in advertising, but who would go to see a movie called 'Rancor, Denial, Spite and Self-Loathing"? In the excoriatingly comic second offering from the writer and director of "Welcome to the Dollhouse," emotions such as glee and contentment are in short supply on screen; and the only Joy you'll find is in the name of one of the film's central characters, a loveless 30-year-old loser played with gentle melancholy by

several exeruciating, silent moments, they stare at each other across the remains ed by the actor Peter Berg, is about as of a failed romantic dinner. The exaggerated looks of misery on the faces of the dumper and the dumpee somebow manage to be both wrenchingly sad and riotously funny. When they finally break the awkward silence, the halting, emodonally oaked conversation segues first from inconsolable weeping back to composure, before lurching to bitter, vituperative abuse. It is an abrupt introduction that sets the tone for the rest of the startling and daring film, which forces you to squirm with discomfon even as it comvorite reference points) or the sequence pels you to laugh. And there is even an uplifting element to the sick and twisted wrapped in plastic and buried in a desert burnor of "Happiness." whose sarcasm grave. Humorous slashings and car ac- bites, but without snideness, its acidity cidents consotute similar high points in a has the tart tang of a lemon sourball, film that is glaringly short on wbose mouth-puckering pungency is "Scream"-style self-mockery to match tempered by its own sweet aftertaste, here "Scream"-style self-mockery to match its dopey mayhem. This is not to say that embodied by the flawed but decent character of Joy, who anchors the film. In Solondz's fuo-house of horrors, wretchedness may swirl around her, but ing havoc among characters obsessed wretchedness may swirl around her, but with the wedding plans of Kyle (Joo she still oever loses sight of that elusive quality that she is ultimately always searching for. (Michael O'Sullivan. WP)

HURLYBURLY

Directed by Ambony Drazon, U.S. The Hollywood Hills condo in which "Hurlyburly" is set is filled with roning fruit, dying houseplants, empty cartons of junk food, Valium, the residue of old coke lines and ashtrays overflowing with roaches (not the insect variety). The decor of decay and decadence is an apl metaphor for the moldering morality of its film-biz striver occupants. Eddie (Sean Penn) and Mickey (Kevin Spacey) and their equally screwed up pals Phil (Chazz Palminteri) and Artie (Garry Shandling). Based on David (Garry Shandling). Based on David Diaz, because the movie does. Funny as she was in the much sharper-edged black comedy "There's Something About Mary," she spends her time here as a ninny, worrying about wedding plans and eventually bashing the best man with has lost oone of the stage play's corhas lost oone of the stage play's cora coat stand when he puts the wedding's perfection in jeopardy. Letting even Diaz turn ugly is a near trick, but Berg manually, a bit too much of the drama's mensions. It has also retained, unfor-tunately, a bit too much of the drama's talkiness, although Drazan and Rabe bave done wonders to open up the action, moving some of the conversation out into the streets of L.A., where the protagonists chat by cell phone from adjacent cars or drive from one end of the parking lot to another to avoid walking 50 feet. In fairness, these are the folks - casting agents and struggling actors — who schmooze for a living, and they do so in a town where tortured iotrospection is a sacrament, so perhaps the glib gab-fest is not that unusual. As the quartet of impeccable actors endlessly yammer with each other and abuse and pass around their long-suffering women (Robin Wright Penn, Anna Paquin and Meg Ryan), they come across like a club of overgrown boys who have the wondrous Jane Adams. In the film's first moments, when we first meet Joy, she has just broken up with a poor themselves. (Michael O'Sullivan, WP)

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In Singapore's Waters, an Island for Pilgrims and Turtles Kusa is one of a handful of almost 60 few other visitors on the island. But as of people, pushing it toward Kusu and out land temples. Tua Pekong opened on islands neighboring Singapore that are we gazed out toward a shimmer of water of harm's way. Today, there are two turtle By Debra A. Klein served by public ferries from the World on a beach across the island, we realized

INGAPORE — As we chugged into Buran Channel's deep waters in Singapore, industrial craft from Panama and South Korea bobbed in the bright blue-green waves. As far as we could see, commercial vessels - some long and black, others stout and gray — were moored in a watery parking lot, awaiting their next route across the Strait of Singapore.

It was our last afternoon in Asia and after two weeks touring at break-neck speed, my husband and I were finally ready to get away -- from our vacation. So we headed for sacred Knsu Island, a tiny dot of land about three and a half miles (six kilometers) from the skyscrapers of downtown Singapore, but a world away from the crowds.

Trade Center Pier on Singapore's southern tip. The island is holy to Taoists and Muslims, who make pilgrimages there at a Chinese temple and Malay shrine.

On most other days the tiny island is practically deserted, and it is an ideal place to unwind for a half day.

About 20 minutes out of Singapore's

harbor, a sliver of land came into view. The tree trunks of slender Lazarus Island lined up in perfect size order, creating an islet on the horizon that we could actually see straight through. On the near side, the water was bright turquoise and

during the ninth lunar month (usually to the god and goddess of prosperity and October or November) in leave offerings mercy, and set on a tranquil yellow- A SERENE TEMPLE We were the only green lagoon.

water, and set off the dramaoc red and white footpath and pagoda alongside the temple's sloping green roof. Below, two Kusu, still called Turtle Island by locals, and reminders of the legends of its past.

In one version, stranded sailors — one Chinese and one Muslim Malay — are

ponds on the island to honor those legends — the large lagoon that runs under the Taoist temple, and a small cement "tortoise shelter" closer to the shore.

reen lagoon.

Visitors at the Tua Pekong temple, which was clean, highly polished and quiet except for the rustle of leaves.

Despite its remote tropical location, Tua Pekong still displayed the ornate cement turtles were marooned in the flat carvings and glittering ceilings of a lagooo water. They were symbols of temple in the heart of mwn. Red banners hung behind gold lanterns in airy pavilions. Ornate dragons raced across the pitched roofs. Elaborate offerings burned at the feet of symbolic carved lapped at the wafer-thin shoreline. The rescued by a kind turtle who turns himself figures hidden on altars in the shadows beach was a slit of powdery white sand. into Kusu Island to save them from a of the temple's wings. But unlike the We thought there would be at least a storm. In another, a turtle helps a ship full grimy walled environs of many main-

We meandered through the curved green and red doorway to the rear of the temple and continued onto the thin path and up the stairs to the Muslim kramat, or hermit's shrine, on the hill.

The bright treehouse-like shrine was, like the rest of "our" island, deserted. The only signs of life were spent candles releasing final smoky wisps into the dead, breezeless air. Green Muslim crescents and stars marked white and yellow pillars, but otherwise most of the walls and surfaces were bare. A small sign explained that the hill was sacred to Muslims, and that it was dedicated to Sahed Abdul Rahman, a 19th-century Malaysian whose family had mysteriously disappeared.

We walked a loop past odd yellow picket-fenced enclosures, and waist-high

barriers that hid modest altars in a sort of inner square. From the shrine we had a clear view to the gray outline of a nearby Indonesian island, and over the choppy hlue waters of the strait.

We descended the front cement steps beneath a red banner of Chinese lettering splayed against the yellow sides of the shrine. At the bottom, ready for our first dip in the water, we followed a trail to the

On our way, we stumbled across the tortoise shelter and paused to take a look. In a broad cement circle, layers of blackgreen turtles rested on top of each other haphazardly — like pieces of a fieldstone wall. Across the channel the buildings of Singapore seemed to float on the water.

Debra A. Klein, who writes for television, wrote this for The New York

ARTS GUIDE

BRITAIN

Scottish National Portrait Gallery, tel: (131) 332-2266, open daily. To April 5: "Raebum's Rival: Archibald Skirving." A portraitist and a contemporary of Allan Ramsay and Sir Henry Backum Skirving (1740-1810) was active dire. Raebum, Skirving (1749-1819) was active dur-ing the Scottish Enlightenment. The exhibition brings together pastels, miniatures, drawings, olis and prints. www.edinburgh-gallerles.co.uk/snpg.htm

LONDON

British Museum, tel: (171) 636-1555, open delly. Continuing/ To April 25: "The Golden Sword: Sir Stamford Raffles and the East." Items collected by the founder of Singapore (1781-1826). As the fleutenant governor of Java, he gathered a large collection of Javanese court art: musical instruments, masks and shadow puppets.

www.british-museum.ac.uk National Portrait Gallery, tel: (171) 306-0055, open daily. To June 6; "Millais; Portraits." Traces the development of the Pre-Rephaetite painter's works, including the commissionad portraits of the 1870s and 20s.

www.npg.org.uk Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 300-8000, open daity. Continuing/ To April 18: "Monet in the 20th Century." Paintings completed in the final decades of the impressionist's life, including views of his garden at Giverny, attracted academic and participates of academic Aca mospheric paintings of London and Venice, as well as a group of four large water-lily panels.

www.royalacademy.org.uk

DENMARK

Nationalmuseet, tel: 33-13-44-11, closed Mondays, Continuing/ To April 5: "Gods and Harces of the Bronze Age: Europe at the Time of Ulysses," More than 200 exhibits collected from sites that have preserved traces of the Bronze Age (between 4000 and 3000 B.C.): Knossos in Crete and Mycenae in Greece, Stonehenge in England as well as the burial mounds of Scandinavia. The exhibition will travel to Bonn, Paris and Athens. www.natmus.dk

FRANCE

Palais des Beaux-Arts, tel: 03-20-06-78-00 closed Mondays. Continuing/ To March 14: "Goye: Un Regard Libre." On loan from Euro-pean, American and Mexican collections, 60 works by the Spanish painter (1746-1828). Including religious scenes commissioned by the Spanish court and clergy, portraits, still lifes and

Centre Georges Pompidou, tel: 01-44-78-12-33, closed Tuesdays, Continuing/ To April 26: "David Hockney: Espace/Paysage." Brings to-gether approximately 50 paintings, photographs and installations exploring landscapes, a recent

and installations exploring tandscapes, a recent orientation in the work of the British painter (born 1937). The exhibition will travel to Born. Jeu de Paume, tel: 01-47-03-12-50, closed Mondays, To April 18: "Georges Pompidou et la Modernite." Marking the 25th anniversary of the death of the former president of France, the axhibition attests to his close relationship to art end literature, and surveys the French state's commitment to artistic creetion since the 1950s. The visual ent part of the show includes works by Nicolas de Stael, Yves Klein, Glacometti,

among others. Musee d'Art Moderne de la Villa de Paris, tel: 01-53-67-40-00, closed Mondays. To April 18: "Mark Rothko." A chronological presentation of the American artist's ocuvre. Starting with figme American arists occurre. Starting with lig-urative paintings in the 1930s, and the Sur-realism-influenced works of the 1940s, the ax-hibition focuses on the large colorful carvases that lead to the somber paintings created just before the painter'a death in 1970.

GERMANY

Staedel Frankfurt, tel: (69) 60-50-98-0, closed Mondays. To May 2: "Von Meisterhand: Zelch-nungen. Partituren und Autographen aus der Plerpont Morgan Library. New York." On loan Irom the New York collection, more than 100 drawings by Old Masters, musical scores by



A Washington exhibition of Baule art redefines the act of seeing art.

Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and John Cage, manuscripts and autographs, and Ranais-

sance Illuminations. ITALY

Museo Stibbert, tel: 055-448-6049, closed Thursdays. Continuing/ To April 30: "L'Abito per il Corpo, il Corpo per l'Abito: Islam e Occidente a Contronto." More than 120 costumes allow the comparison between structured European clothes and the flowing robes of the seum, Sydney.

Min.am Palezzo Reale, tel: (02) 8691-5738, open daily. Continuing/ To March 14: "L'Anima a il Votto."

relationship between the mind and the face, from Leonardo's heroic man to Francis Bacon's mangled flesh. The exhibition features 300 Italian and European works of art.

VENUCE
Palazzo Grassi, tel: (041) 522-9875, open
daily. Continuing/ To May 18: "I Maya." Six

hundred items trace the development of the Maya civilization in Central America and Mex-ico. The exhibition looks at the architectura, everyday life and the importance of maize religious beliefs and rituals, and the 1 lays contribution to astronomy and mathematics. www.palazzograssi.it

JAPAN

Hiroshima Prefectural Museum of Art, tel: (221) 6246, closed Mondays. To Merch 28: "Baccaret, L'Edet de la Lumière." On loan from the Baccaret museum in Paris, approximately 400 crystal items dating from the first objects created in the 1830s. Also features 70 perfume bottles created over the last 100 years.

Osaka Idemitau Museum of Arts, tel; (6) 245-88-11; open daily. To March 22: "A Longing for Limp-ldity." More than 50 works by Chikuden Tanomura (1777-1835). Tanomura developed a style inspired by literati paintings of the Ming and early Qing dynasties.

Setagaya Art Museum, tel: (03) 3415-6011, closed March 8, To March 22: "Temperature of the Time; Art/Domestic," Introduces more than 100 works by seven contemporary Japanese entists in a variety of forms and media, including performance art, with emphasis placed not on individuality, but rather on the common sens-lbillty shared by the artists. www.setagayaartmuseum.or.jp

SWITZERLAND

Kunsthaus Zurich, tel: (1) 251-6765, closed Mondays. To April 25: "Chagall, Kandinsky, Malewitsch und die Russische Avantgarde." Documents the artistic upheaval in Russian art of the first two decades of this century, which led to abstraction. In addition to works by Chagail, Karidinsky and Malevitch, paintings by Lari-onov, Rodchenko, Popova and Filonov are also on display.

UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON

National Gallery of Art, iel: (202) 737-4215 A retrospective of more than 100 paintings and watercolors, including society portraits, early Paris work, impressionist paintings and Sur-gent's late Venetian and Swiss landscapes. Reared in Europe in an American expatriate family, Sargent (1856-1925) left Paris for London in 1884 after his portrait of "Madame X turned out to be the scandal of the Salon, to be leter claimed by both the British and the Amerloans as one of their own. The exhibition will travel to Boston.

www.ngs.pov
National Museum of African Art, tel: (202)
357-2700, open daily. To May 9: "Beule: African Art/Western Eyes," More than 125 works by Baule artists from ivory Coast. Tha masks, statues, if y whisks, jewelry and objects of daily use are presented to contrast the ways the Baule intended these pieces to be seen with the traffitional Western manner of display. traditional Western manner of display. www.si.edu/nmeta

CLOSING SOON

Feb. 28: "Brassai: The Eye of Paris." Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Feb. 28: "Precious Legacy: Treasures From the Jewish Museum in Pragua." Powerhouse Mu-

Feb. 28: "Paint it Red: Chinese Propaganda Posters, 1949-1999." Groninger Museum,

Groningen, The Netherlands.

Feb. 28: "The Southam Neighbors: Early Caramics and Bronzes from Vietnam." Museum fur Kurnsthandwerk, Frankfurt.

Feb. 28: "Issey Miyake Making Things." Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Peris. Feb. 28: "Catherine the Great and Gustav III." Nationalmuseum, Stockholm. Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

Internet address:

http://www.lht.com

Debunking the Myth of Monolith

By Roger Collis International Herald Tribane

NOW thyself is the lapidary advice on the temple of Apollo at Delphi. In present day travel terms, that means deciding what kind of traveler you are for a particular trip. Travel decisions depend on a shifting equation of cost, conveni-ence and comfort. We travel in different modes, different frames of mind, with different needs, motivations, priorioes and prejudices, depending on why we're going and where we're headed.

Business travelers are not monolithic as the travel trade often assumes. Corporate travelers have expense accounts, but some have deeper pockets than others and are subject to travel policies reflecting status and company cultures. Individual and small-husiness travelers, for whom travel expenses are their bottom line, have different needs and priorities. As do female travelers who may have their own needs, concerns and priorities.

The lodging infustry seems more aware than airlines of our diversity, our shifting needs, providing more choice and flexibility - recognizing that we may not only want to trade up or dowo between deluxe and budget hotels, but trading across as well, from serviced apartments to small, town-house hotels.

Major airlines are reporting lower yields, reflecting a downgrading from first and business class to economy, because they've got their branding (and pricing) out of sync with the emerging needs of business travelers; reading what they want to read from the self-fulfilling findings of consumer surveys. Changes will be driven by the traveler.

buyer's market.

European business-class fares have Index for the fourth quarter 1998. The cities around the world. index compares changes in published fares from both ends of 439 city pairs within Europe and between major European cities and destinations in North America and Asia.

Matthew Davis, manager of the purchasing management group at American uting to a year-to-year drop of 13 per-Express in London, says: "Business cent, while Tokyo and Beijing had modtravelers are not only making fewer trips, but downgrading as well. Some major carriers report that passenger

The Frequent Traveler

numbers have fallen by 10 percent or more as companies try to cut dowo on travel expenses.'

But the strength of the U.S. economy continues to attract large numbers of European travelers — especially from Britain - prompting dramatic fare increases. While they have leveled off in the last quarter, business-class fares have risen by a staggering 24 percent over the past two years. Business-class fares from Britain are 25 to 30 percent higher than from cities in Continental Europe." "The growing difference between

premium and economy fares -- especially for long-haul journeys - is putting pressure on business travelers to move to the back of the cahin," Davis says. "On many routes to North America, you can save more than 60 percent

in the last quarter of 1998. Perhaps we tain than Germany, where there's less are finally moving from a seller's to a difference between business and discounted economy fares. Hotel prices are also falling because of

not increased for the first time in two reduced demand for business travel, with years as companies tighten control on lower occupancy rates in almost all parts travel hudgets, according to the American Express European Corporate Travel which monitors rates at 839 hotels in 56

In Asia, "deluxe" hotel rates fell by 14.7 percent from the previous quarter, while "first-class" rates fell sharply by 20 percent over the last eight quarters. After a recovery in the third quarter, hotel rates in Seoul fell again, contribcent, while Tokyo and Beijing had modest decreases of just over 3 percent.

Western Europe saw an increase in first-class hotel rates of 1 perceot compared with previous increases of 7 percent over the last eight quarters. Overall, tourist-class rates have fallen by 4 percent in the last two years. Corporate rates in Paris have risen by 16 percent and 14

percent in London in two years. Borge Ellgaard, vice president, hotel relations group, for American Express, says: "After several years of sharply rising prices, London hotel rates have now peaked. For the first time, hotels in London are offering more attractive corporate deals and last-minute availability. We are seeing the slowing of demand that produced over-inflated prices."

Bnoyant demand in North America led to increases in deluxe rates of 2.7 percent and first-class rates of 1.6 percent per quarter over the last two years. totaling 21.9 percent and 13 percent.

New York is the most expensive city for first-class accommodation, with rates rising by 15.8 percent over the previous simply hy moving from husiness-class quarter. Bostoo and Torontn rates de-Let the bad times roll! Business travelers can only benefit from calaminus financial results by many major airlines

| Sumply by moving mount hashess-class to economy on a generally unrestricted to economy on a generally unrestricted creased over the quarter but show yearly increases of 11.9 percent and 10 percent can save 15 percent by switching from thusiness to economy — more so in Britanness of 2.8 percent year to year.

BOOKS

SOUTHERN CROSS

By Patricia Cornwell. 359 pages. \$25.95. Putnam.

Reviewed by Carolyn See

ATRICIA CORNWELL must be a cranky little devil. She appears to get exasperated at almost everyone who walks on two legs. If you walk on four legs, that's another story, but since bumans generally populate thrillers and whodunits, and those are what Cornwell writes, she has been giving her crahby, slightly paranoiac view full sway.

The author is best known for her string of best-sellers featuring Kay Scarpetta, medical examiner, who is generally seen the criminals involved. Scarpetta proceeds from a position of

nobody fiking her, everybody being out to get her, but because of her vast knowledge of criminals and how to find clues from dead bodies, she always wins the day. Here we have another almost-lone

woman, Police Chief Judy Hammer, who has been brought into the city of Rich- himself slipping into a life of crime. mond, Virginia, to destroy civil corruption and crush crime. Once again a Cornwell heroine is on her own against the crowd, except that this time she has brought two associates with her, Deputy Chief Virginia West and a rookie, Andy Brazil. Virginia and Andy are in love with

each other but 100 confused to know it; police department where dumh cops mis-

Bot now Cornwell has lightened up. It

rampant racism and more than ordinarily hateful adolescents. She gives us characters like a redneck bozo named Butner as alone and up against a humbling. Flack IV, who even into middle age is beefy, burly, transcendentally mean still unable to cope with the way people spirited police force — not to mention mispronounce his name. mispronounce his name.

There is also a nascent adolescent gang, headed by Smoke, a sociopathic killer, and Divinity his slutty girlfriend. is a freshman at the local high school, a talented artist and brilliant computer nerd who, despite these advantages, finds Comedy is tricky, especially when

you are reading it in a book. Again and again, characters in "Southern Cross" fall down laughing, get tears in their eyes from laughing at themselves, and this reader, at least, is unable to get it. Cornwell creates many meetings of the Washington Post.

they provide the romantic subplot in what understand things, mispronounce words is presented here as a police comedy. and are unable to get things done. It's The Kay Scarpetta novels were supposed to be funny, and maybe it is. gloomy, paranoid and proud of it. In a Harmor and her assistants sent here

world peopled by corpses, perpetrators to crush crime are unable to get the and often crooked cops, there was not police computer up and running. An much to joke about. Scarpetta's corpses extremely tiresome woman goes around had been around the block and were as talking in broken English. A statue of 300 pages in a Bret Easton Ellis novel. one of Richmond's cemeteries gets painted to look like a hlack basketball makes for an unsettling read.

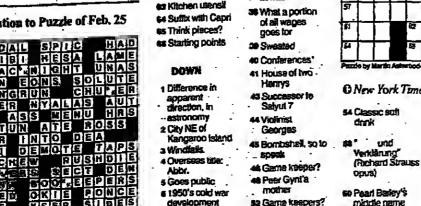
She paints Richmond as a terminally flaky outpost of the tobacco industry, with a friend who scares him with a rubber rattlesnake. Somebody out there has to be laughing.

The only sympathetic characters here
outside of Weed, the timid black kid - are Popeye, Chief Hammer's dog, who "could not imagine her owner being married to a lazy, independently wealthy, fat, whiny sloh who did nothing but eat, work in his garden and watch This unholy pair is in the process of television," and Niles, the deputy recruiting Weed, a sweet black guy, who chief's cat, who knows how to operate the computer speed dial to get in much with her owner's boyfriend — against her wishes. This makes for a strange world view that seems a little and-human to me, whether "Southern Cross" is supposed to be a comedy or not. But whatever I think of it, if it makes you laugh, it will have done its joh.

Carolyn See reviews books for The

CROSSWORD

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BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott HE expert bridge player

great care, and can read subtle messages. A remarkable example is the diagramed deal. Oon in the hope of gaining played in December at the clues to the spade situation. Town Cluh in New York. The game was mps for a cash stake, which is popular with followed by a club to the ace. many experts.

of the world's great players, and he chose to open one no-trump rather than one. spade. In his style this showed the traditional 16-18 points and his partner should have raised simply to six no-trump. That would have matched the • 10 7 6 2 result in the replay, where the ○ 9 South player, Fred Chang, ex- ◇ 9 ecuted the correct safety play +hy cashing the spade ace quickly with the intention of leading later toward the jack.

But North was suffering from a fit of optimism and hid

four clubs, a Gerber inquiry hesitation. South drew a singleton ten would not help for aces, followed by seven subtle inference. It would be for lack of an extra entry to the no-trump. Now South could most unsafe for West to dis- South hand. So he cashed HE expert bridge player not afford any safety plays. card from a four-card bold-dummy's ace, collecting the studies the discards with When the heart jack was led ing, which would often give miraculous queen, and used great care, and can read subtle be won with the ace and away a trick. And if West his diamond entries to finesse planned to test the distribu-

West discarded the diamond trick. South was Ira Rubin, one deuce without the slightest NORTH

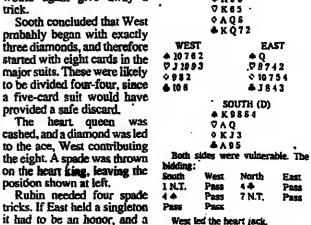
AAJ3 4 J SOUTH **◆ K886** ♦ K J

card from a four-card bold- dummy's ace, collecting the sibility that South also held five, in which case a discard would again give away a

started with eight cards in the major suits. These were likely to be divided four-four, since a five-card suit would have EAST provided a safe discard. The heart queen was cashed, and a diamond was led to the ace, West contributing the eight. A spade was thrown on the heart king, leaving the

posicion shown at left. Ruhin needed four spade tricks. If East held a singleton it had to be an honor, and a

began with five diamonds he against the ten and make the would probably take a few grand slam. He thinks this is seconds to consider the pos- the best hand he ever played. NORTH **♦**AJ3 ∇K65 -



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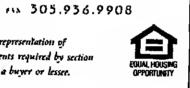
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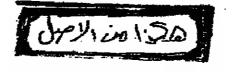
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Appendix Communication

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Philip Condit, the chairman, says, "There are no sacred cows."

Boeing Vows Self-Discipline to Try to Rebound From Loss good news was that 25 percent of the review will be a decision on whether it ident, will not receive annual bonuses,

By Laurence Zuckerman New York Times Service

NEW YORK — After 18 mmulmous months during which it posted its first annual loss in 50 years and saw its stock price dive, Boeing Co. has promised to impose strict self-discipline and says its two top executives will get no bonnses. Speaking to Wall Street analysts in Orlando, Phorida, on Wednesday, Philip

Condit, the chairman and chief executive, said that Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company and the single-largest American exporter, was reviewing all of its operations in a relentless effort to increase profits. Any program that did not measure up would

either be dropped or sold. Nothing escapes scrutiny here," he said later in a conference call with re-porters. "There are no sacred cows."

A preliminary assessment done by the company found that about 10 percent of its \$13 billion in equity had been

the most profitable companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index.

Deborah Hopkins, Boeing's new chief financial officer, who was hired from General Motors Corp. late last year to try to introduce some financial discipline, said the company would fix or that nearly sank the company before eliminate its "value-destroying" operations and maximize the returns on those that hovered near profitability.

This isn't a program of the month or a flavor of the month," she said during since World War II.
the same conference call. "This is the Mr. Condit has be way we are going to run the business at Boeing. Forever.

That tough talk could translate into some wrenching decisions for Boeing, such as canceling the slow-selling new 100-seat 717 passenger jet that it inberited when it bought McDonnell Donglas Corp. in 1997. It could also heighten tensions with

the International Association of Mainvested in unprofitable operations. A chinists, Boeing's largest union, as the further \$2 billion is invested in op- two sides approach contract negoti- the former chief executive at McDon-erations that merely break even. The ations this year. Included in Boeing's nell Douglas who is now Boeing's pres-

equity was making a better return than makes more sense to continue producing components itself or to buy thema hot-button issue for the union.

And it also raises questions-whether Boeing, which was catapulted to its current prominence in large part by daring to build a new airplane - the 747 becoming one of its biggest successes, will ever be able to take the same kind of high-stakes risks that have characterized the commercial aerospace industry

Mr. Condit has been talking about increasing shareholder value at Boeing for years. His credibility with Wall Street was stretched to the breaking point last year after his assurances that things were improving repeatedly turned into additional quarterly charges and a steady decline in the company's

profit targets.

Boeing's 1998 performance was so poor - its stock declined 32 percent that Mr. Condit and Harry Stonecipher,

Mr. Condit said.

Analysts who attended the meeting welcomed Boeing's latest moves, although they said they were long overdue and short on specifics. "It is amazing that we are at this point and they are only

Besides improving its current operations and selling off some units, such as its commercial helicopter unit, Boeing now figuring out how to drop the losers and keep the winners," said Nicholas Heymann, an aerospace analyst with

Howard Rnbel, an analyst at Gold-man, Sachs, said, "There is no reason wby there won't he a certain amount of cynicism by investors partially because changes can 1

Prudential Securities.

Boeing's stock fell 62.5 cents to close Thursday at \$35.

Lately, Boeing's operations seem to be improving. The company predicts that revenue will fall to \$49 billion in 2000 after peaking at \$58 billion this year, thanks to a record number of commercial airplane deliveries. Operating profit margins are expected to range

percent to 5 percent this year. But on Wednesday, Ms. Hopkins said operating margins would not fall next year despite the lower revenue.

has revived the idea of expanding into aerospace services such as airplane

"There are 10,683 Boeing jets flying around the world," Ms. Hopkins said. 'The question is: What are we doing to capture our fair share of that services market? And the answer today is: Not

enough. She said that expanding into services such as overhauling jets for airlines would create new jobs that could counter cuts in other parts of the company.

But it may also cause some diplomatic problems for the company because many of its largest airline customers are also competing in the services arena. Mr. Condit said he was aware of the problem but thought there between 3.5 percent and 5 percent next were enough opportunities for Boeing year, compared with an estimate of 4 to steer clear of its customers.

Telecom Fights New Olivetti Bid

Executive Is Said to Quit In Dispute Over Strategy

Compiled by Our Staff From Disporch

MILAN - Telecom Italia, its hands tied after Olivetti redrew its \$58 billion hostile takeover bid, was meeting late Thursday to discuss moves to bolster shareholder value and help fend off the bid amid reports that its chief financial ifficer had resigned.

The executive, Pulvio Conti, quit after disagreeing with Telecom's chief executive, Franco Bernabe, on how to repel the Olivetti bid, people familiar with the matter said Thursday. Mr. Conti could not be reached for comment, and Telecom Italia would neither confirm nor deny that be had resigned.

Olivetti's second strike in the increasingly fraught battle for Europe's fourthlargest telecommunications concern fensive action without securing shareholder approval.

But Mr. Bernabe was expected to spell out his strategy for slashing costs at the former monopoly by selling off non-Telecom's board meeting was expec-

ted to flow into a board meeting of the cellular unit Telecom Italia Mobile. A spokesman said the company would brobably issue a statement later. The spokesman disclosed no details

of the agenda for the meeting, one of the

most keenly watched since Mr. Bernabe took the helm in November. The cornerstone of his strategy as outlined in recent interviews is a merger of Telecom Italia with the Italia Mobile unit, a move that would make strategic

sense and might make Telecom too ex-pensive for Olivetti's already stretched finances. Pressed by the stock market regulator Consob on Wednesday to confirm or deny the merger plan, Telecom said no such action had been formulated or put to the board but said it had been dis-

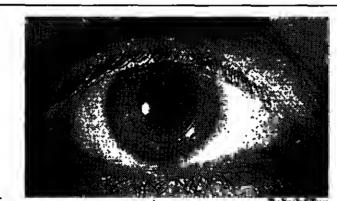
Under new rules on corporate takeovers, the board will need approval from holders of 30 percent of Telecom stock if Mr. Bernabe wants to go ahead. it could call a special shareholders'

meeting to get that consent. Telecom Italia shares fell in a generally weak market as Olivetti's decision not to raise its bid, though widely an-ticipated, took the froth off prices that had surged above Olivetti's offer of 10 euros (\$11) a share made Wednesday.

Telecom closed down 4 percent at 6.27 euros, while Olivetti slid 6.9 percent to 2.74 after unveiling further details of the financing for the bid.

In its first reaction to the renewed offer, Consob asked Olivetti to provide details of the sale of its interests in the cell-phone firm Omnitel and the fixedline Infostrada company to its German partner, Mannesmann AG.

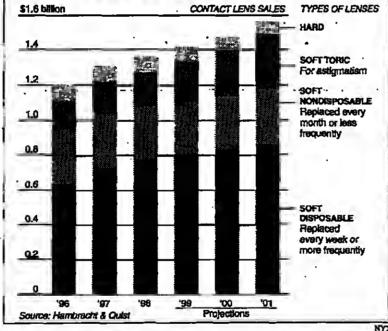
The deal, signed Wednesday and expected to raise more than \$8 billion, is conditional on Olivetti's bid succeeding. (Reuters, Bloomberg)



A patient's eye after a polymer arc implant for myopia.

Clear Potential

Developers of surgical eye implants hope to take advantage of increasing frustration among contact lens wearers. Only sales of disposable soft and soft toric contacts are experiencing strong growth.



Better Eyesight in View

New Corneal Implants Offer Help on Myopia

By David J. Morrow New York Times Service

them up. Instead of receiving laser surgery, an alternative to contact clear polymer arcs implanted in her near-sighted right eye.

The arcs, known as Intacs, are an

experimental treatment made by Keravision Inc., a tiny California company. The arcs, which can be inserted during a 10-minute procedure in an ophthalmologist's office, flatten the comea to correct mild nearsighted-

proved from 20/20 with glasses to

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20/10 with the implants. 'It's nothing short of amazing." she said. "I've gone around and told all my friends about it."

If the U.S. Food and Drug Admin-NEW YORK — After wearing istration, as expected, approves Intacs glasses for 31 years, Debrah Ward this spring, it will be the first surgical jumped at a chance last May to give comeal implant for vision correction to he sold in the United States.

At the same time, companies such lenses and eyeglasses, Ms. Ward had as Bausch & Lomb Inc., the contactlens giant, and Staar Surgical Co., a small California concern, are racing to develop other types of eye implants, technologies that are similar to Intacs and essentially are permanent contact

Still other developments are under way. Presby Corp., a small biotechnology company in Dallas, is develness, or myopia.

"Inever had vision this good," said
Ms. Ward, 38, an accountant in Olathe, Kansas, who took part in the Intacs clinical trials. Her eyesight improved from 2000 with classes.

All these products, which could be

See EYES, Page 14

Pers Carmocy

U.S. Economy Shows Strength

Strong Data Rekindle Expectations Fed Will Raise Interest Rates

NEW YORK - New orders for bigticket durable goods shot up at the fastest pace in 14 months, while sales of existing homes climbed to an all-time high in January, indicating that the U.S. economy had plenty of momentum as it entered the new year, government reports showed Thursday.

Stocks and bond prices numbled, meanwhile, as stronger-than-expected sales rekindled speculation that the Fed-small decline for January. eral Reserve Board could raise U.S. interest rates.

"The market is rethinking the Fed's position," said John Burgess of Bankers Trust Global Investment Management in

The Federal Reserve, worried about a possible nptick in inflation, has been looking for a slowing in the U.S. economy after three years of rapid expansion. But the Federal Reserve Board chairman, Alan Greenspan, hinted this week in testimony to Congress that if this slowdown did not occur, the Fed would

rates to make it happen.

The markets got evidence that the economy was expanding. The Com-merce Department said Thursday that durable-goods orders rose 3.9 percent year's sales total of 4.5 million houses last month as a December surge in aircraft orders at Boeing Co. finally showed up in the government's data. It was the and came on top of a 3.4 percent increase

items expected to last three or more years, increased by \$7.7 billion. Most of the strength came in a huge \$7.1 billion may call into question the prevailing rise in transportation orders, primarily view that the U.S. economy will slow reflecting a big gain in orders for civilian aircraft, an extremely volatile sector.

Aircraft orders shot np 145.1 percent in on what up until now has been strong domestic demand. in December.

Durable goods excluding transportation were up a more modest 0.4 percent claims for unemployment benefits fell

In a separate report, sales of existing

be ready to move quickly to raise interest homes climbed to a record seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.07 million units in January, a 0.8 percent increase from was the best ever.

Sharon Millett, president of the association, said the healthy resale activity biggest gain in orders in more than a year over the past few months reflected "strong" consumer confidence in the reports on factory orders, jobs and home a month earlier. Analysis had forecast a nation's economy and continued low mortgage interest rates. "This economy January orders for durable goods, or has benefited all segments of the res-

idential market," she said. The two back-to-back sizable gains

Meanwhile, the Labor Department said the number of Americans filing new

See ECONOMY, Page 14

South Korea Documents Its Rebound

On President's Anniversary, Statistics Show Jump in Production and Sales

By Don Kirk International Herald Tribune

SEOUL - On the first anniversary of the inauguration of the reform-minded Kim Dae Jung as South Korea's president, the government re-warded itself Thursday with a variety of upbeat statistics portraying the nation's econ-omy as being on the mend. Industrial production was 14.7 percent higher last

month than in January 1998, the National Statistical Office said. At the same time, it said, retail sales increased 2.8 percent year-on-year - the first such jump since before November 1997, when the country appealed to the International Monetary Fund to piece together a rescue pack-

age of nearly \$60 billion. The economy has embarked on an expansionary eycle," said Song Keum Young, an official in the government's National Statistical

A range of other statistics indicated the economy had hit bottom and was on the upswing. One telltale sign was a government report that investment in new machinery, needed to build the products that South Korea exports to the world, should rise 8.8 percent after dropping 34 percent

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, captured the nobest mood in a talk Wednesday in New

Less than three months ago the Fund predicted a 1 percent drop in South Korean economic growth, he said, "but the people of Korea were so courageous, and the program worked so well, that we have already had to correct our forecast" to a 2 percent increase for the year.

Some analysts, however, see the possibility of a relapse if big businesses do not move faster toward reform.

Lawrence Summers, the visiting U.S. deputy secretary of the Treasury, warned government and business leaders Thursday against "complacency" that he said could put a brake on necessary restructuring" of the nation's



Mr. Kim speaking on anniversary of his inauguration.

concern about the failure of more than \$55 billion, and the the country's major conglom- gross national product is erates to make good on widely forecast to be growing

pledges for reform that be about 2 percent. said were needed to restore economic stability. icism with praise for South Korea's "effective crisis response" in a year in which its

In a speech before the American Chamber of Com-Mr. Summers mingled crit- merce, he seemed just as eager, however, to puncture the balloon of praise that Mr. Kim and other South Korean currency has stabilized, forleaders bave been heaping eign-exchange reserves have npon themselves in the past

from a heart attack," Mr. Summers said, "and changing your lifestyle to he sure you never have another one."

"There is an important dif-

ference between recovering

Mr. Summers's remarks struck a chord among analysts worried that big business will return to its old habits of repressing competition and using easy credit to prop up unprofitable entities.

"Corporate restructuring stands in the way of a resurgence," said a report issued this month by the local office of Jardine Fleming Securities, "and the government stands in the way of

corporate restructuring."

The report said that "policymakers have consistently shielded the incompetent management and unviable operations of big companies from market forces, inflicting serious damage on healthier competitors and the financial sector." The chaebol, it said, still suffer from "too much capacity, too much debt and risen from almost none to few days for rebounding from too many people."

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a: To buy one pound: b: To buy one dollar. "Per 10th N.C.: not qualitate N.A.; not available. SDR: Special drawing rights of the UNF.

Sources: Bank of Tokyo-Akitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Ca tance (auto); IAAF (SDR), Other data trom Reviers.

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European Cross Rates

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Costs Hit DaimlerChrysler Profit

STUTTGART - Daimler-1998 after accounting for costs re-lated to its takeover of Chrysler Corp. in November and for a special payout in 1997.

Excluding the 685 million euros (\$753.5 million) in takeover costs, profit rose 29 percent as sales of Mercedes-Benz and Chrysler passenger cars and Airbus planes rose. But final net income fell to 4.8 billinn euros from 6.5 billion euros a year earlier. Profit before the extraordinary costs rose to 5.20 billion euros from a pro-forma 4.06 billion euros in 1997.

Group sales rose 12 percent, to 131.8 billion euros. The company conference in March.

"Fundamentally the company is dning very well," said Rolla increase. Sales were spurred by Kantz, an auto analyst with BHF new and redesigned vehicles such Bank in Frankfurt. "It's definitely as LH sedans and Jeep Grand

profit-taking; since Daimler vehicle, pushing worldwide sales Chrysler stock had outperformed to a record 926,400 vehicles. the market in recent days while other automakers such as Volks-

wagen and BMW were slipping.
The company plans to pay a dividend of 2.35 curos a share, a large increase for former Daimler-Benz shareholders but a smaller one for former Chrysler shareholders. Daimler-Benz shareholders last and received 5.8 billion DM in year received 1.60 Deutsche marks sales from the stake last year. (90 U.S. cents) a share, while

said n would release results for Mercedes-Benz units both report-each division at its year-end news ed gains in the U.S. car market last year. Chrysler sold 2.51 millinn cars and light trucks, a 9 percent

a good start. There's nothing to Cherokee sport ntility vehicles. worry about." DaimlerChrysler Mercedes sales jumped 39 Mercedes sales jumped 39.2 Chrysler AG, Europe's largest in- shares fell 3.75 euros in Frankfurt percent for the year to 170,245 dustrial company, said Thursday trading to close at \$7.65. Analysis units on the strength of its E-Class that its net profit fell 26 percent in attributed the slide mainly to sedans and M-Class sport ntility

Airbus, the European jet-manufacturing joint venture, increased its worldwide market share to 46 percent from 44 percent, further squeezing the market leader Boeing Co. DASA, DaimlerChrysler's defense and aerospace unit, holds a 37.9 percent stake in the venture

DaimlerChrysler said about Chrysler shareholders received \$1.000 U.S. employees would re\$1.60. The new dividend would be worth 4.60 DM or \$2.60.

DaimlerChrysler's Chrysler and Mercedes-Benz units both report-

Thomas Stallkamp, president of DaimlerChrysler, said more than 19,000 management and professinnal employees would be eli-gible for profit-sharing payments under the same formula

EU Discounts Hope

Of an Early Accord

BONN - European Union leaders sought Thursday to damp ex-

pectations they would reach an ac-

cord Friday on overhauling financ-

ing, regional aid and farm policies.

EU's costly farm-support programs

headed for a fifth day, German

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder por-

trayed the summit meeting in Boon

as little more than a first exchange of

make final decisions but to discuss

possible options and compromises

Germany, the holder of the EU's

as part of an overall package."

As negotiations over cuts in the

Endesa's Bid For Enersis Is Stymied

MADRID - Endesa SA's shares

fell Thursday after Spain's largest power company lost a bid to control Enersis SA, Chile's biggest utility holding company.

Enersia shareholders blocked a
\$1.5 billion offer late Wednesday

that would have let Endesa double its 32 percent stake, The shareholders refused to in-

crease the maximum amount an investor can own in Enersis, dashing Endesa's hopes of taking over Enersis to make it the vehicle for its Latin American expansion.

"We were surprised by the nut-come nf the vote," said Ramon Olleros, a fund manager at AB Ase-sores, a brokerage in Madrid. "It's very bad news for Endesa."

Changing the bylaws was the last resort in Endesa's 18-month fight for control of Enersis, a company valued at \$3.5 billing that nwns power companies in Chile, Argen-tina, Brazil, Peru and Colombia.

Endesa has poured \$1.3 billion into Enersis since September 1997 to gain control, only to be foiled by opposition from Enersis executives and small shareholders that own part of Enersis. Because the bylaw change had faltered by just a small margin, some analysts in Madrid predicted that Spain's leading utility

would not give up the battle yet. The company is expected to keep its Enersis stake. It would lose money if it sold now because Enersis

shares have plunged 30 percent since Endesa bought the stake as the recession in Asia and currency turmoil spread to markets in Latin America. Endesa's shares closed at 23.82

euros (\$26.20), down 1.10 euros. Telefonica's Bill in Brazil

Telefonica SA said it expected to eralities so as not to spoil the talks. make provisions of 119.37 billion The goal, he said in a letter, "isn't to pesetas (\$786.5 million) this year to cover its investments in Brazil, news agencies reported from Madrid.

The former state-controlled monopoly purchased key parts of Telecomunicacoes Brasileiras SA, or Telebras, the Brazilian telephone monopoly.

That company was privatized last (Reuters, Bloomberg)

Market Closed

The Sheazhen stock mar-

High Low Clase Prov.



Very briefly:

 The Confederation of British Industry said domestic demand, exports and expected output improved in February and predicted that Britain's economy would avoid a recession. The report reinforced expectations that the Bank of England will keep interest rates steady next month.

• Elf Aquitaine SA said profit fell 37 percent in 1998 from a year earlier, to 540 million euros (\$594 million), after nil prices plunged to 12-year lnws and margins narrowed nn production of chemicals. Lufthansa AG. Europe's second-largest air carrier, expects

pilots to approve a plan to raise staff wages by 3.5 percent, a move it said would cost it an estimated 200 million to 255 million euros (\$221 million to \$281 million). · ABN-AMRO Bank NV's provisions for loan losses in

emerging markets jumped 72 percent in 1998, to 2.07 billion guilders (\$1.03 billion), and net income rose 4.5 percent, to .03 billion guilders, as financial crises in Russia and Brazil hit second-half earnings.

• The Netherlands' economy surged 1.2 percent in the fourth quarter as higher consumer spending helped the fifth-biggest euro-zone economy escape Europe's slowdown. The gain brought 1998 growth to 3.7 percent, the highest since 1990. • The Birmingham Alliance, formed by Hammerson PLC.

Land Securities PLC and Henderson Investors Ltd., announced that the three companies were pooling their central Birmingham property holdings for what it described as Europe's largest city-center retail regeneration project.

· Switzerland's highest court ruled against the Budweiser beer brewed by Anheuser-Busch Cos. of the United States in a battle over trade names, according to a report in the Zurich weekly Cash. Bloomberg, Reuters, AF

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High Low Oose Pres

operating companies that do not improve and longer contracts for those "I want to make it perfectly clear to you that you are on trial," Mr. Blair told a conference attended by

gail industry bosses and ministers. "Overall, the rail industry is not getting good enough results," he said. "It is not doing well enough its service standards are not high ennugh."
He told the rail leaders: "Ynu are

Blair Warns

Train System

To Shape Up

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair on Thursday assailed the poor performance of Britain's

privatized rail network, threatening

contract cancellating and fines for

failing your customers, and those who continue to fail them bave no place in the rail industry of the fu-

Britain's state-owned rail system was sold to investors three years ago by the previous Conservative administration, forming 25 operating companies and a separate company, Railtrack Group PLC, to operate the rail infrastructure.

The latest government data showed that train punctuality declined on most routes in 1998, with the Virgin West Coast line, operated by the Virgin Rail Group, singled ut as one of the worst-performing

private operators. Passengers complain that services are frequently late or canceled

and that prices are far too high. introduce fares "that don't break the

The prime minister said that companies failing to make substantial service improvements would not have their operating franchises renewed. In contrast, those that did improve quality would have their contracts extended.

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said that he would subject operators to "tough" new performance contracts. The companies would be fined for failing to meet these targets, be said. "If you want it, we can have a running battle," Mr. Prescott told industry bosses. But I don't want that. I believe you Con't want it either."

Thursday, Feb. 25

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

LVMH Files Suit to Fight **Gucci's Resistance Effort**

PARIS - LVMH Moet Henssy Louis Vaitton SA, the world's No. I luxury-goods company, said nelia, an analyst at Credit Suisse Thursday it was suing Gucci Group Mr. Blair said that operators must NV after the Italian fashion house used share options to try to fight the French company's growing control

> LVMH said the suit, filed in Amsterdam, should be beard next

shares in Gucci's employee trust fund and to retain its 34,4 percent stake in Gncci.

ntive and controlling shareholder, Bernard Arnault, and Gucci's chief executive, Domenico de Sole, wbo is a Harvard-educated lawyer. Gucci has become increasingly

rising tenfold since 1994. "It's very difficult to say which way this will go," said Cedric Mag-First Boston in London. Gucci last week issued share op-

tions in an employee trust fund to dilute LVMH's stake in the com-pany and prevent LVMH from naming a candidate to the Italian comany's board without making a full views nn revamping the 15-nation bloc's budget of 85 billion euros. In a statement calling Gucci's (\$93.5 billion). He urged other leadpany's board without making a full takeover offer for Gucci.

The company seeks to suspend In a statement calling Gucci's (\$93,5 billion). He urged other lead-the voting rights tied to each of the plan to issue extra shares to its emers to limit public statements to genployees a "poison pill," LVMH said it had asked the Amsterdam court "to suspend voting rights on It was the latest move in a battle of shares issued by Gucci to the benefit wits between LVMH's chief exec- of a foundation allegedly created for employees and allegedly managed

LVMH's shares closed at 202

rotating presidency, said its new 11-nation currency, the euro, would euros (\$222.20), up 5, while Gucci slide further unless the EU reached an slipped to 63.00 euros, down 0.05. agreement by its self-imposed budget (Bloomberg, Reuters) deadline of the end of March.

Frankfurt

www.excharge.de

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THE AMERICAS

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Very briefly:

• Gap Inc.'s profit rose 46 percent, to \$313.9 million, in its fourth quarter, which ended Jan. 30, as demand for khaki pants and sweaters at its Old Navy stores helped the U.S. clothing chain record one of the strongest sales gains among retailers during the holiday season.

• J.C. Penney Co.'s fourth-quarter net income rose to \$207 million, or 77 cents a share, from \$201 million, or 76 cents a share, a year earlier, although revenue fell 4.5 percent, to \$9.32 hillion, on slow clothing sales during the holiday season.

• Waste Management Inc.'s earnings before charges rose sharply to \$361.1 million in the fourth quarter on rising revenue and savings from its merger with USA Waste Services Inc. Clear Channel Communications Inc., a U.S. owner of radio

stations, said it would buy a 33 percent stake in Golden Rose Communications PLC to gain entry into the British market. · Philip Morris Inc. will close its cigarette plant in Louisville, Kentucky, by the end of next year and cnt 1,400 jobs. Cornerstone Properties Inc., one of the largest owners of downtown office buildings in the United States, said property

acquisitions and higher rents drove earnings from operations up 65 percent, to \$43.3 million, in the fourth quarter.

CBS Chief Talks of Buying NBC

NEW YORK - The chief executive of CBS Corp., Mel Karmazin, said Thursday his company would interested in buying the NBC network if the government eased rules that prevent one company from owning two broadcast television networks. He said NBC would be a better fit with CBS than with General Electric Co., NBC's parent.

Mr. Karmazin said he believed GE would either spin off NBC as a separate public company or sell it. NBC is facing family column, a senior currency problems with declining ratings and profit and rising costs.

(AP, Bloomberg)

(AP, Bloomberg)

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Thursday, Feb. 25

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By Japan Helps Yen

NEW YORK - The dollar fell against other major currencies Thursday as Japan signaled it would not print more currency to help and its recession.

"The market is now doubting the idea that gripped it so forcefully a few weeks ago that Japan was going to reflate" the economy, said

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Lawrence Hatheway, the global chief of strategy at Warburg Dillon

He added that expectations Japan might follow a reflationary path drove the dollar to more than 120 you last week, and as that expec-tation fades and U.S. financial assets drop on concern that interest rates will rise, the dollar could lose further ground.

The U.S. currency was quoted at 119.775 yen in 4 P.M. trading, down from 121.670 yen Wednesday.

The euro, meanwhile, was at \$1.1043, up from \$1.1000 Wednesday. In other trading, the dollar was at 1.4390 Swiss francs, down from 1.4462 francs. The pound was at \$1.6041, np from \$1.5965.

The Japanese finance minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, said Japan would not support proposals, including one from the United States, to bolster the economy by printing more money.

The yen also was supported by a report from the Ministry of Finance that Japanese investors were net sellers of foreign securities in Janu-March. Investors and companies in Japan are repatriating profits from abroad to bolster their earnings before the March 31 fiscal year-end.

"There's a pattern of selling from change at Erste Bank.

The euro fell briefly against the dollar after an unexpected increase in expectations for stronger U.S. growth and higher interest rates. But the reports turned into a negative for the U.S. currency when stocks and bonds declined on fears of a rate increase.

"People will be looking to the long end of the fixed-income market and to the stock market for clues as to the direction of the dollar," said

Thursday, Feb. 25

Grains

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Assurance IBM Devises Remedy for Pentium Security Fears

IBM has come up with what it believes is a way to satisfy consumers concerned about a security puters: It will ship the computers with the controversial feature hidden by the computer's hardware. The security feature is a built-in

serial number in Intel Corp.'s new Pentium III microprocessor. Intel has responded to protests by offering a specific software program. known as a utility program, to pre-vent the number from being read by other software. IBM's remedy goes further and hides the number at the hardware level, which is harder to penetrate.

IBM made the announcement Wednesday in a letter to the Center for Democracy and Technology, a Washington-based privacy group that has asked the nation's major computer makers to provide more security than is offered by Intel's software remedy.

Intel announced the processor

serial number in January as a tool for authenticating documents, electronic messages and copyrighted meterial. Privacy groups, bowever, as-

to track people surfing the Internet to give computer makers the soft-privacy advocates have traditionally ware to switch the feature off in Intel has stood opposed universal numbers, including Social Security and driver's license numbers, arguing that they feature in the Pentium III com- can simplify tracking an individual across many computer sources hy companies or agencies that create digital dossiers on people.

computers sold to individuals.

questions about the security of the mending that computer makers place software used to control the number. a switch in the basic input-output In recent days, editors at the German system of each machine and that it magazine C't said they had de- was to be set to off when the comveloped a program that could read puter was shipped from the factory.

serted that the number could be used In response to critics, Intel agreed the number without a computer

Intel has stood by its decision to offer the serial number. A company But privacy activists have raised spokesman said it had been recom-

Sony to Propose New Anti-Piracy System

New York Times Service

Responding to the growing threat of digital music piracy via the In-ternet, Sony Corp. planned to pro-pose a new copy protection scheme Thursday.

The plan is designed to enable the recording industry to sell music safely, both on-line and on digital formats like CDs and andio DVDs.

The proposal is the first to be submitted to an industry standards group, the Secure Digital Music Initiative, which was established in January by the Recording Industry

Association of America. The new scheme consists of two separate copy protection systems,

Magicgate and OpenMG, both of which require special hardware systhem for listeners.

Magicgate will embed a special chip in each recorder and playback

OpenMG, which is intended for personal computers and related devices, will require that consumers purchase a hardware device known as a dongle, which will attach to a personal computer's serial port.

The dongle will ensure that an encrypted music file be copied by an approved digital recording device before it can be played.

Sony said it had also developed a third copy-protection system known tems for scrambling music files be-fore they are sold and unscrambling tended to be a long-term solution to tended to be a long-term solution to the husiness problems presented by

copy-protection scheme Such an approach might permit a consumer to listen to an unlimited amount of music for a single subscription fee.

A spokeswomen for the recording institute said Wednesday that the standards group planned to meet Friday in Hollywood and that 90 companies had expressed an interest

in joining the initiative.

She said the group expected other proposals besides the Sony plan.

ECONOMY: Data Rekindle Rate Concerns

Continued from Page 11

by 5,000 last week, to 293,000. The four-week moving average for claims, which smoothes out some of the week-to-week volatility, was down as

well, dropping 2,000 to 292,500.

That was the lowest level in a decade and a strong signal that labor markets

remain tight. The price of the 30-year Treasury bond ary for the first time since last fell to 94 19/32, taking the yield up to 5.62 percent from 5.51 percent.

U.S. STOCKS

Japanese exporters, said Rainer stocks less attractive than cash and gov-Guidon, manager of foreign ex-

Bonds become more competitive with stocks as yields rise," said Gil Knight, a money manager who belps oversee \$11 U.S. factory orders in January fueled billion in assets at Allied Investment Advisors in Baltimore. "We are over 51/2 percent, and bonds are beginning to sound attractive again."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 33.33 points lower at 9.366.34, battling back from a 166-point drop. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index fell 8.39 to 1,245.02. The Nasdag composite index fell 12.56 points to 2,326.82.

Decliners outnumbered advancers by an

Stocks may have more room to fall, said Mr. Knight. "We're in a choppy market, and we may see a correction of another 5

percent to 7 percent from here." International Business Machines Corp. and other computer-related shares led the decline after an analyst said the industry's

growth rate may be disappointing.

Personal-computer stocks fell after a Merrill Lynch & Co. analyst, Steven Milunovich, said long-term growth rates may prove disappointing because of falling prices, more competition and the ad-Stocks fell as rising bond yields made vent of new "information appliances" that will supplant PCs to some extent. Mr. Milunovich said PC stocks "should be fine in the near term.

IBM, the second-largest PC maker, fell 21/2 to 1711/2, contributing the most to the Dow average's decline.

Dell Computer, the higgest direct seller of PCs, fell 21/2 to 801/2 and was the most active stock in U.S. trading.

Compaq Computer, the largest PC maker, declined 11/4 to 41 3/16. Microsoft, the biggest software maker,

fell 11/4 to 1511/2, and Intel, the biggest maker of chips for PCs, fell 3 3/16 to 127 3/16. Advanced Digital Information rose 4 to 17% after the maker of automated tape libraries for computer servers said it earned 30 cents a share in the first quarter ended Jan; 31, beating the 20-cent average 2-to-1 ratio on the New York Stock Ex- estimate of analysts surveyed by First Call (Bloomberg, AP)

men blur. \$ per mon blu 1.709 1.635 1.460 4.037 1.746 1.670 1.890 4.037 1.774 1.715 1.725 4.032 1.810 1.835 1.775 4.032 1.830 1.830 1.835 4.031

EYES: New Corneal Implants

Continued from Page 11

available in the next several years, are aimed at grabbing a share of the \$11 billion that Americans now spend each year for glasses and contact lenses.

While doctors and analysts are wary of predicting how popular vision-corrective implants will become — they will cost as much as \$2,500 an eye, and they involve surgery—their development is a result of the recognition that many aging baby boomers are eager to spend lots of money to turn back the effects of time.

The excitement last year over Viagra, Pfizer Inc.'s impotency pill, showed that there was an increasing demand among the middle-aged for medical treatments that could make their lives easier and more fulfilling.

Many analysts say consumers may snap np implants beanse they increasingly are becoming frustrated with contact

After expanding for years, the contact-lens market in the United States is barely growing. The number of wearers of annual-replacement soft contact lenses, 36 percent of the market, fell 7.9 percent last year. The only boom is for daily disposable soft contacts, with sales up 44 percent last year.

"Intacs should have a broad appeal," said Katherine Mar-

tinelli, an analyst with S.G. Cowen Securities Corp. "People won't have to worry about cleaning or replacing them. One of the keys is that the products are going to have to be able to work in a broad range of people."

But the potential seen in implants comes with a number of

Given the companies' small size (Keravision had only \$835,000 in sales last year), analysts worry that the companies lack the resources to make their products best sellers.

Even after an advisory panel of the Food and Drug Administration recommended Intacs for approval last month, shares of Keravision, based in Fremont, California, continue to trade below their July 1995 initial offering price of \$13.50. The shares were trading Thursday afternoon at \$12.50, up 43.75 cents on the day,

Possible side effects and complications range from blurred rision with Intacs to a slim risk of cataracts with the Staar

The implants are expensive, and only 2,000 people have

'This is not a casual procedure," said Ken Taylor, a vice president at Arthur D. Little & Co., a corporate consulting and research firm. "Eyesight is very precious to people. They are

research firm. "Eyesight is very precious to people. They are going to have to be confident about the procedure and the product before they will have it."

Intacs, made of a clear polymer that is used to correct cataracts, are two arcs that are inserted surgically in the periphery of the cornea. The arcs flatten the comea to correct vision primarily between 20/40 and 20/300, a treatment that could be used by nearly one-third of the 70 million Americans who suffer from myopia.

The surgery takes about 10 minutes and requires a local anesthesia administered through eyedrops.

Insertion of Staar Surgical's intraocular contact lens, made of a bendable polymer, takes about 20 minutes. Like Intacs, the lens can be inserted in a ophthalmologist's office under local anesthesia, but the procedure is slightly more invasive. The contact lens fits just over the eye's natural lens behind the iris.

Though several years away from market, Bausch & Lomb is developing a leas that fits in front of the iris, a position that doctors say should reduce the risk of cataracts. The device has two thin Z-shaped arms with tiny foot plates to help hold it in place.

Doctors say there is a nlightly greater risk of infection from

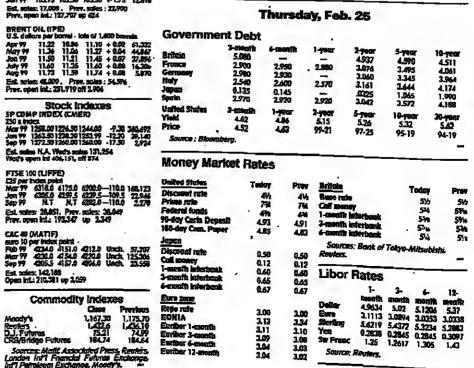
Doctors say there is a slightly greater risk of infection from the lens procedures, but their uses are far broader. Intacs primarily correct mild nearsightedness, while the implanted lenses have proven effective in early clinical trials as a remedy for a greater range of myopia and farsightedness.

With both procedures, the implants can be easily removed. In the Intacs trials, when the lenses were removed, the patient's eyesight went back to its uncorrected vision in most cases.

But not all wearers of such implants may be thrilled with the devices. Given the cost of the procedure, side effects, while minor, may prove a deterrent.

minor, may prove a deterrent.

INTEREST RATES



Forward Rates

30-day 1.5991 1.5911 1.0993 120.01

40-day 1*-*5977 1*-*5011

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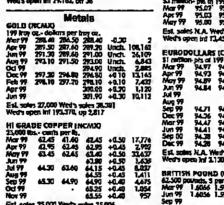
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stocks only. Unless otherwise roved rares or devicends are denindial dispulsionents oread on the latest decidention. a. dividend also extra (s), b. - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend, c. - Rauddialing dividend, c. - PE exceeds 99.ckl - called, d. - new yearly low, dd - loss in the last 12 months, a. dividend, c. - PE exceeds 99.ckl - called, d. - new yearly low, dd - loss in the last 12 months, a. dividend declared are paid in preceding 12 months, f. - annual rate, increased on last declaration, g. - dividend in Consolian funds, subject to 15% non-residence fax. 1- dividend declared or rate, and the set of the stock of which the process of the part of the control rate, and the part of which the dividend is dividend declared or paid this year, and occumulative issue with dividends in arrears, s. - annual rate, reduced on last declaration, s. - new issue in the part 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading, a. - new issue in the part 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading, a. - new lasue in the part 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading, a. - new lasue in the part 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading, a. - new lasue in the part 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading, a. - new lasue in the part 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading, a. - and day declared are paid in proceeding 12 months, plus stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value or ex-dividend or ex-dividend or ex-distribution date, shock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value or ex-dividend or ex-distribution date, shock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value or ex-dividend or ex-distribution date, shock in preceding 12 months, estimated as when distributed, under the Bankrupty Act, or securities assumed by such companies, we with when distributed, with when basued/ www - with warrants, x. ex-dividend or ex-rights, satis ex-distribution, without warrants, y- ex-dividend and sates in full,

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3-MONTH EURO LIBOR [LIPFE]

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Thursday's 4 P.M. The 1,000 most traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.

The Associated Press.

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Cramer, Stock Market Oracle, Stumbles With His Hedge Fund

By Joseph Kahn
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — As trading stocks becomes a national pastime, James Cramer, the tireless fund manager, market commentator and Internet entreprerenown as the Wall Street equivalent of player, coach and owner.

As a player, though, he's been in a

investors, it fell short of the total return in TheStreet.com.) on the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index by about 27 percentage points.

the benchmark index for the last five years, although he still beats it over 10

Many other hedge funds did poorly in 1998 as well, including some, like Cramer-Borkowitz, that specialize in

But Mr. Cramer is not just another

hedge-fund manager. Cramer-Berkowitz manages about market these days. \$300 million on behalf of elite investors

fund, known for its hybrid strategy of long-term stock-picking and hyperactive buying and selling. Mr. Cramer is also one of the in-

vestment world's most prolific journaneur, has scored a "hat trick," earning lists, detailing his thoughts about the stock market online, on air, in print, often many times each day.

TheStreet.com, a World Wide Webbased financial oews and analysis ser-For Cramer-Berkowitz & Co., Mr. vice be started just announced an initial Cramer's high-flying, fast-trading public offering that aims to raise \$75 hedge fund, 1998 was the worst year in a million. (The New York Times Co., part decade. Although the fund produced a owner of The International Herald positive return of 2 percent after fees for Tribune, is the third-largest shareholder

Appearing regularly on CNBC's 'Squawk Box' talk show about stocks The bad year left Mr. Cramer trailing and writing for national magazines as well as on his own Internet service, Mr. Cramer espouses active trading has described his own pace of buying and selling as manic - as a way of beating the market in good times and

> He has become an icoo in the fastexpanding world of Internet day-traders, · a group many analysts see as driving the

afraid to trade. I am neither a trader nor an investor, I am an opportunist. You

should be, too.

But last year Cramer-Berkowitz, which Mr. Cramer runs with Jeff Berkowitz, stumbled with their stock prohibit Mr. Cramer from commenting picks, the partners said in a letter to at this time. investors obtained by The New York

it also suffered because many investors decided to withdraw money in October, when the fund's performance was deep in the red and world financial markets were shaky. The letter said the the main stock market indexes. fund had to sell some good stocks at a bad time to return that money.
In the letter to investors, Mr. Cramer

and Mr. Berkowitz said that redemptions were one factor harting the fund. "We were also hit, at the worst possible timo — the bottom of the 1998 market — with requests for redemptions," they wrote. "Our October opening forced us to sell stocks at precisely the time we would

Several big investors have stood by Mr. Cramer. "There were many superb His columns regularly contain ex- year last year," said Martin Peretz, pub- treet.com.

the first two months of this year."

Mr. Cramer declined to comment about the fund's performance. A lawyer for the hedge fund said that Securities and Exchange Commission regulations

As a result of last year's weak performance, Cramer-Berkowitz has strengthened its research department, the partners wrote. The hedge fund also sold many small company stocks in favor of big company stocks that make up

The partners said they would not open the fund to redemptions as often as oreviously but did not provide specifics. Unlike mutual funds, which allow redemptions at any time, bedge funds may require an investment for six months, a

year or more. In his Web column for TheStreet.com entitled "Wrong!," Mr. Cramer deals more with day-to-day or even minute-tominute market action than he does with

long-term strategy.

He also keeps management of hedge funds that did not have a good Cramer-Berkowitz separate from TheS-

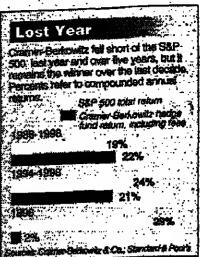
Some columns that he wrote in the who generally put up at least \$2.5 mil- hortations like this one: "Moral: Never lisher of The New Republic and a long- Some columns that he wrote in the lion to become partners in the all-star let a trade turn into an investment. But time Cramer partner. "Many have autumn, when his hedge fund faced the just because you are an investor, don't be already recouped some of their losses in strongest head winds, reveal Mr. Cramer's gloominess about unfavorable markets. But his writing does not flag a change in investment strategy at Cramer-Berkowitz or give a reader a sense of how far his trading strategy put

him behind the market indexes. He does complain, though, about how the near-collapse of Long-Term Capital Management LP, the hedge fund that was rescued by a consortium of Wall Street banks and brokerages houses in September, soured sentiment toward hedge funds in general.

In one column he compared Long Term Capital to the alarming Three Mile Island nuclear-plant accident in Pennsylvania two decades ago.

"The fallout in hedge fund land hurts" those of us who run by hydro or natural gas or plain old No. 6 oil to generate solid returns," Mr. Cramer wrote in late September. "That's too bad, because what I do for a living bas nothing to do with what the geniuses at Long Term —
and I use that term loosely — claimed to be doing, or were actually doing with investors' dollars."

Mr. Cramer has described his invest-



investing and shorter-term, trading-oriented transactions. While it is hard to track the results of Mr. Cramer's shortterm trading, it is clear that big losses in several long-term stock holdings dragged down his performance last

According to documents filed with the SEC, Mr. Cramer's largest holding at the end of September was Bay View Capital, a San Francisco-based bank, But the 1.8 million Bay View shares the fund then owned, most of which were bought for more than \$30 a share, would ing as taking two forms - classic value now be worth about \$19 each.

As Stock Dives, Press One, Now, for Crossed Lines at Iridium . The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission will intervene more forcefully when independent directors of mutual

have been buying.

WASHINGTON — It has been a long, long fall and a harsh winter for stockholders of Iridium World Communications Ltd., the company based in Washington that has launched a network of satellites that can provide mobile phone service anywhere in the world.

Subscribers cannot make those calls unless they have Iridium phones, however, and the company is suffering from a shortage of phones that has delayed the recruitment of subscribers and exacerbated a drop in the stock that has cost investors more than \$6 hillion.

In a little more than nine months, Iridium shares have fallen from more than \$72 to \$28.56 at the close of Wednesday trading oo the Nasdag Stock Market.

Slipping steadily since the first of the year, the stock hit what investors hope is the bottom at rate has helped knocked down the price of the. \$24 a share on Monday. It bounced hack in the stock recently, analysts said. next two days as Wall Street analysts lined up to

reassure investors that the company's setbacks

are only temporary.

The shortage of phones is a particular embarrassment because most of them are being made by Motorola Inc., the biggest portable phone maker in the United States. Motorola dreamed up the Iridium system and is one of its three big investors, along with Sprint Corp. and

Lockheed Martin Corp. Analysts say the shortage of phones means Iridium will not meet its goal of having 27,000 in use by the end of March and will fall short of its targeted 88,000 phones at the end of the first quarter and 173,000 hy the end of the third.

More than just benchmarks, the targets are written into the terms of loans the company got from a group of big banks. Fear that the banks would restructure the loans and raise the interest

Assuring investors that the banks are not

putting on the pressure, a Salomon Smith Barney analyst, John Coates, reiterated his rating on the stock Tuesday.

fridium has simply not had enough time to auract subscribers," he said. "Delays in handset availability have stifled Iridium's ability to enlist subscribers, but do not, in our opinion, indicate that there's insufficient demand for the

As hig as a brick, with a stubby antenna, the phones cost about \$3,400 and calls run \$3 to \$7 a minute. That is a general improvement over old-style satellite phones, which are the size of a laptop computer, have an antenna that has to be aimed precisely and cost about \$3,000.

Journalists, explorers, globe-trotting business executives, disaster relief workers and government officials are obvious target markets. But are there the millions of customers who will be needed for Iridium to make money? Analysts insist there are.



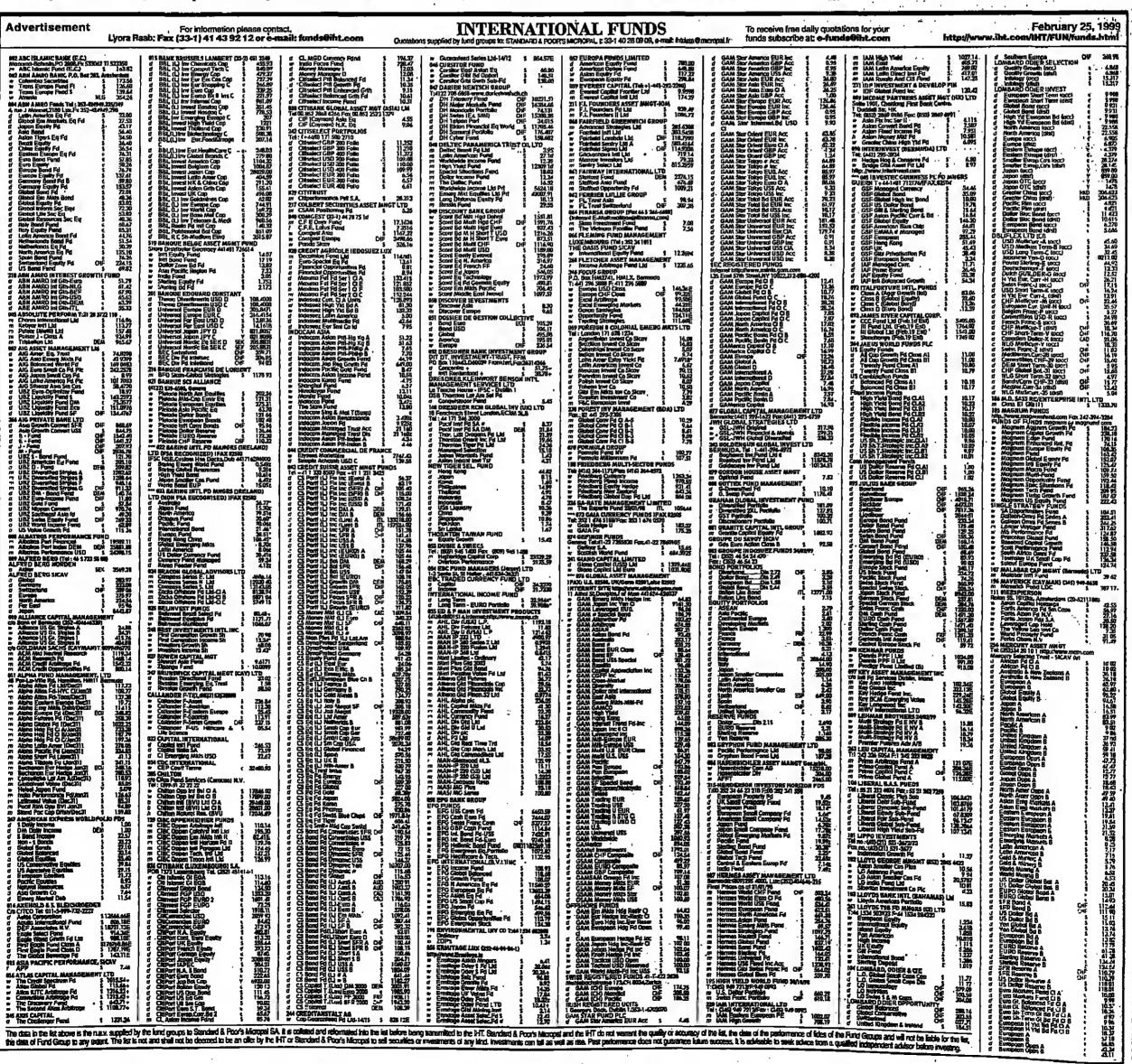
Very briefly:

tervene more forcefully when independent directors of mutual funds challenge practices by the funds' investment advisers, said the SEC chairman, Arthur Levitt. The commission also plans to review fees that exchanges charge for stock quotes, following complaints by on-line brokerages that said recent fee increases had burt them disproportionately.

" Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd., the Australian branch of . the worldwide banking, investment and insurance provider, has signed a letter of intent to merge with Queensland state. based Henderson Charles Jones Ltd. The new firm, to be called Credit Suisse First Boston Australia Equities Private Ltd. will merge the private clients of both companies in the states of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

 Smith Kline Beecham PLC said it would seek permission from shareholders at its annual meeting to buy back up to 10 percent of its issued share capital on the open market.

Montenegro may have at least five privatization funds soon after the coastal republic switched to vouchers to complete privatization of its economy, a leading Montenegrin economist said. "In the next 10 days we expect first applications for establishing privatization funds," said Veselin Vukotic. architect of the privatization program. Bloomberg, Reuters



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gerisemen:

ASIA/PACIFIC

Despite GDP, Singapore Still Gloomy

Compiled by Our Staff From Disputites

SINGAPORE — Singapore's economy shrank at half the expected pace in the fourth quarter, but the economy of the island nation remains vulnerable to the economic troubles of its trading partners, the government said Thursday.

Gross domestic product contracted 0.8 percent in the fourth quarter. the Ministry of Trade and Industry raid, revising an estimate of a drop December

For all of 1998, the ministry said, the economy expanded 1.5 percent - its slowest rise in a decade compared with a revised g percent advance in 1997. In December, the government unveiled preliminary 1998 GDP growth of 1.3 percent.

The ministry said in a statement that "forward looking indicators" had improved for Singapore, but that prospects would cootinue to 'hinge on external circumstances.' The statement added that "uncertainties and stress points remain. citing the situation in Latin America stemming largely from Brazil's devaluation of its currency, the real,

this year. The government's outlook for 999 remains unchanged, as the hinistry retained its forecast that the economy will either shrink 1 percent or expand by the same amount.

Consumer prices are expected to shrink as much as I percent in 1999, a second year of deflation. The consumer price index declined 0.3 percent in 1998, crimping profits as home and companies were unable to raise earnings.

company profits and making banks man for the company. "There's oo evators and semicooductors also has hesitant to make new loans, creating way we can meet our forecast" of a itself to blame for its weakening a spiral that may delay any rebound from Singapore's recession, its first net profit, he said. in 13 years. That trend is mirrored in countries across Asia, as consumer prices in Hong Kong, China and Japan have declined as demand for goods fell.



INDIAN BANK STRIKE - Workers demonstrating in Bombay on Thursday on the first day of a two-day walkout to press for higher wages. Nearly 1 million bank employees stayed off work. Tokyo trading late Thursday.

Concern Over the Yen

New Credit Crunch Possible, Officials Say

Agence France-Presse

MANILA - U.S. and Asian exan Asia Society forum Thursday threw their support behind market reforms, but expressed concern that the renewed weakness of the Japanese yen could delay Asia's recovery from financial crisis.

"While our domestic credit crunch has eased," said Kim Kihwan, South Korea's ambassador at large for economic affairs, "we remain very coocerned in the weakening of the Japanese yen - that it could aggravate the credit crunch in the region."

Central banks should strive for more openness, especially with "what is happening now when the weakening yen remains a bad oews for all countries in Asia," said Vichit Suraphongchai, chairman of Thailand's Radanasin Bank PLC.

The yen has weakened sharply from 112 per dollar on Feb. 3, to below the 121 level, pulling down other regional curreccies. It was quoted at 120.60 to the dollar in

The fall of the yen accelerated after officials from the Group of ecutives and regulators meeting at Seven leading economies failed to address the issue at talks last weekend in Bonn, with their silence seen as tacit endorsement of a weaker Japanese unit.

Analysts say further weakness in regional units could force up interest

rates, sparking a new credit crunch. Many Asian economies are struggling to emerge from recession after being battered by the financial crisis sparked by the de facto devaluation

of the Thai currency in 1997. On the subject of Asian leader's commitments to economic liberalization, former Presideot Fidel Ramos of the Philippines told delegates he did not see "any East Asian state turning its back on the market despite the devastation the financial and currency crisis has

While oo East Asian states have followed Malaysia's plunge into capital controls, Mr. Ramos said, they are being compelled to undertake structural reforms to keep markets open and transparent.

MICHERL



Very briefly:

 Hong Kong's levies on airlines may threaten its status as a regional bub, the chief operating officer of Cathay Pacific Airways said. Philip Chen said the new airport at Chek Lar Kok was the third most expensive in the world and charged tpercent more than Hoog Kong's old one.

 Hong Kong will see another year of negative growth and a further 25 percent drop in property prices, according to Nomura International, a Japanese securities house, which also said Hong Kong was losing out to Singapore partly because of a lack of leadership and vision in its government. Rio Tinto Ltd., the world's largest mining company, said in Sydney that net profit tumbled 42.6 perceot in 1998, to \$700

million, as sales fell 2.3 percent, to \$9.2 billion. . Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd. may not be fit for sale even after the government trimmed almost 5 trillion yen (\$41 billion) in problem loans from its books, the bank's president said, adding that prospective buyers might want further scrutiny of the bank's loans.

 All Nippon Airways Co., Asia's second-largest airline. plans to cut spending oo aircraft by 100 billion yen (\$822 million) over the next three years.

• Malayan Banking Bhd., the largest bank in Malaysia, said group net profit plunged 40 percent, to 277 million ringgit (\$72.9 million), last year as loan losses and provisions for further losses swelled.

Mitsubishi Electric Predicts Loss for Year Bandai Increases

Bloomberg News

for the year through March as Ja- that have been forced to cut their

'Earnings will be much worse," The slide in prices is battering said Wakasaburo Kondo, a spokes-20 billion yen (\$164.4 million) in

> Shimban, which said, without citing sources, that the company would

asked not to be ideotified, said the TOKYO - Mitsubishi Electric company will have to report a loss. Corp., one of Japan's largest electronics makers, said Thursday it Japanese exporters, including NEC would not meet its earnings forecast Corp., Sony Corp. and Hitachi Ltd.,

pan's weak economy hurts sales at earnings because of the double blow home and the strong yen saps export of recessions in Japan and elsewhere in Asia, and the rising yen. Yet the Tokyo-based maker of bousebold electric appliances, el-

performance, analysts said. 'The company hasn't yet come Mr. Kondo declined to comment up with convincing measures to im-on a report in the daily Nihoo Keizai prove earnings," said Satoru Oyama, an analyst at ABN Amro Securities Japan. "I can't see its earnpost a loss of 40 billion yen. Another ings recovering in the oext two to (Bloomberg, AFP) Missubishi Electric official, who three years."

"Mitsubishi should conceptrate oo what they do best," said

Hideki Goto, a credit analyst at Merrill Lynch Japan Inc. He said the company should focus its efforts more on elevators, refrigerators and washing machines, rather than semiconductors and other hightechnology items. Mr. Kondo said the yen's surge

against the dollar in the second half of the business year is partly to blame for its lower earnings expectations. The company based its initial forecast oo an average exchange rate of 130 yen to the dollar in the second half; so far, the dollar has averaged 117.70 yen. About 23 percent of Mitsubishi Electric's parent sales of

2.8 trillion yen in the year ended

March 1998 came from exports.

Its Loss Forecast

TOKYO - Bandai Co., Japan's largest toymaker, said Thursday it would lose four times more money this year than it had previously forecast as it disposes of invectory and streamlines unprofitable affiliates.

The company, best known for its Tamagotchi virtual pets, said it expected to post a oet loss of 18.5 billion yen (\$152.1 million) for the year ending in March, 14 billion yen more than it had projected in September. It changed its pretax profit fore-cast of 500 million yen to a prediction of a loss of 7.5 billion ven.

Bandai said its president, Takashi Mogi, would step down to take responsibility. Bandai shares closed Thursday at 1,350 yeo, down 33.

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Herald Eribune

Yankees and Nets **Plan Merged Entity**

The New York Yankees and the New Jersey Nets of the NBA have signed a letter of intent to merge the two teams into one company. The

two teams into one company. The teams current management will remain in place, with George Steinbrenner running the Yankees and Lewis Katz running the Nets, the teams announced Thursday.

The deal, which creates a holding company called YankeeNets, will enable the Yankees to gain better leverage in selling their local broadcast rights. Their \$486 million, 12-year contract with Cablevision Systems Corp.'s Madison Square Garden Network expires after the 2000 season. With the after the 2000 season. With the Yankees and Nets united, the company will have 12-month program-

On the field and on the court, the accord is not expected to change anything. The deal is also subject to the approval of owners in Major League Baseball and the National Basketball Association.

2 World Records Tumble

ATHLETICS Two indoor world records fell in the space of seven minutes at an international athletics meet in Stockholm on Thursday.

First, Nicole Humbert of Germany broke the women's pole-vault record when she cleared 4.56 meters, bettering the previous mark of 4.55 meters set by Emma George of Australia in Adelaide last March.
Then Maria Mutola of Mozam-

bique broke her own record in the 1,000 meters when she clocked 2 minutes, 30.96 seconds. That beat the time of 2:31:23 she set three years ago to the day at the same meet in Stockholm.

Mutola said, "I feel good, it's fantastic, but my legs are hurting." (Reuters)

IOC Member Fights Back

OLYMPICS Phil Coles, a member of the International Olympic Committee and a vice president of the Sydney bid, said Thursday that he planned legal action against the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Games after it made claims that he had behaved unethically. Coles has denied that a 1995 visit to a Utah ski resort was improper. The organizing committee said it would produce air-travel vouchers, courtesy notes and lodging reservations as evidence that bid supporters had lavished favors on Coles.

WORLD ROUNDUP 6 Red Cards **And Plenty** Of Fireworks As Cup Opens

RIO DE JANEÍRO - South America's Libertadores Cup began in earnest with a flurry of players being sent off and a firework almost causing the suspension of a game in Argentina.

Adrian Corria scored twice for Universitario of Peru and was shown the red card for the way he celebrated the 2-1

WORLD SOCCER

Wednesday over Sporting Cristal of Peru. He was one of six

players sent off.
Jose Luis Chilavert, the goalkeeper
for Velez Sarsfield of Argentina, needed
treatment after a firework landed by him when his team scored in the 1-1 Group 2 draw with River Plate.

Crowd violence is an issue in Argentina, where the lower divisions have been suspended by a court order because of fan behavior and first division players have gone on strike in national com-

petitions in solidarity.

ENGLAND Tottenham advanced to the last eight of the FA Cup with a 2-0 victory over visiting Leeds in a replay Wednesday

David Ginola, Tottenham's French winger, carried his team to victory with a 15-minute burst of inspired play early in the second half. Ginola set up the first goal for Darren Anderton with a quick free kick. The Englishman hammered a swerving shot from 30 meters (100 feet), which hit the inside of the post and flew into the goal. Ginola added the second with a volley from 20 meters and twice hit a post after dazzling dribbles.

In other cup replays, Newcastle, last season's losing finalist, triumphed, 1-0, at Blackburn, and Derby came from behind to down first-division Huddersfield. 3-1, at Pride Park. .

Louis Saha, a French forward starting in place of the flu-stricken Alan Shearer. fired Newcastle's winner. SPAIN Valencia beat Barcelona, the

league leader and cup holder, 4-3, Wednesday to advance to the semifinals of the King's Cup, 7-5, on aggregate.

Two goals by Claudio Lopez and one by Miguel Angel Angulo gave Valencia a three-goal lead at halftime. Rivaldo and Oscar hit back early in the second half, and Gaizka Mendieta scored to steady Valencia. Ronald de Boer finished the scoring with Barcelona's third goal.

NETHERLANDS Igor Korneev had the lone goal as Feyenoord beat RKC Waalwijk, 1-0, to pad its lead in the Dutch (AP. Reuters) league to six points.



Andy Hartmann of Switzerland glides above Ramsau, Austria, on Thursday in the jumping segment of the team combined event at the Nordic Skiing World Championship. Finland won the gold in the event that also includes a cross-country relay.

Predators Are Closing In

A Playoff Place Is in Sight of Expansion Team

The Nashville Predators gained ground on the Edmonton Oilers and Calgary Flames in the race for the final playoff spot in the Western Confer-

The Predators won, 2-1, in Dallas points of the Oilers and Flames, who both failed to win.

Sergei Krivokrasov's goal with 28.6 seconds remaining lifted the Predators

NHL ROUNDUP

over the Stars in their second meeting in two nights. Dallas won, 4-3, the night before at Nashville in the home-and-

Mighty Ducks 2, Oilers 1 Paul Kariya scored the game winner and added an assist as Anaheim won in Edmonton. Sabres 2, Flames 2 Defenseman Jason

Woolley assisted on the first goal and scored late in the third as Buffalo earned a tie in Calgary. Coyotes 2, Capitals 1 Rick Tocchet

and Keith Tkachuk scored first-period goals as Phoenix snapped a five-game losing streak and broke Washington' five-game home winning streak.

Doug Gilmour scored twice and goalie Mark Firzpatrick gained his first victory since Nov. 17 as Chicago made the coaching debut of Lome Molleken a

Molleken achieved something in his Wednesday night and moved within four first game that the Blackhawks accomplished only six times previously this season — a victory on the road.

Panthere 5, Flyers 3 Mark Parrish scored a power-play goal at 11:32 of the third period as Florida beat visiting Phil-

Kings 3, Red Wings 2 Lnc Robitaille's power-play goal in overtime lifted Los Angeles to victory in Detroit, snapping the Red Wings' unbeaten streak at seven Maple Leafs 2, Rurricanes 2 Alyn Mc-

Canley returned to the lineup following a 22-game absence and scored the tying goal with 5:05 remaining to give Toronto a tie with visiting Carolina. Canacks 1, Sharks 1 San Jose outshot Vancouver 40-13, but only Alex Koro-

lyuk's got past Garth Snow.
Dave Scatchard scored for the visiting Canucks in the first period. Vancouver didn't get a shot off in either the third period or overtime.

The Stars Fall Hard In Match-Play Event

12 of Top 20 Seeds Are Beaten in First Round

By Clifton Brown
New York Times Service

clubhouse wearing a wry smile that failed to hide his disappointment. Lee West-wood stalked out of La Costa Resort & Spa in a huff. Colin Montgomerie cleaned out his locker with his head down and spoke in hushed tones about his demise.

And in a poignant scene late Wednesday afternoon, three members of last year's U.S. Ryder Cup team were sitting in the locker room packing their bags: Mark O'Meara, Davis Love III, and Tom

Lehman — all first-round losers.

Welcome to the Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship, which began and ended Wednesday for many of the game's marquee attractions. Five of the top 10 seeds were eliminated, and 12 of the top 20, including O'Meara (No. 3). Love (No. 4), Westwood (No. 5), Montgomerie (No. 6) and Els (No. 7). Everyone expected upsets. But hardly anyone expected this many, this quickly.

By nightfall, 18 of the 36 first-round

matches had been won by lower-seeded players, leaving the top-seeded survivors in a stronger position. Tiger Woods (No. 1), David Duval (No. 2), Vijay Singh (No. 8), Nick Price (No. 9), and Justin Leonard (No. 10) all managed to advance. Considering the day's unexpected events, all of the winners were relieved.

"I'm not going to lie, I'm happy to have progressed past the first day," said Duval, who won a difficult match over Stephen Leaney, 2 and 1 — or 2 holes ahead with one to play. "You are facing a week where you could be beat very easily. When you put No. 64 next to a player and No. I next to another, it visually creates a wider gap than there actually is. In this type of format, you can easily get ousted."

It was lonely and dangerous at the top, as everyoue saw the beauty and the beast of match play. The first event in the new World Golf Championship series sent many of the pre-tournament favorites scrambling to make unexpected plane reservations.

O'Meara was beaten by Michael Bradley, 4 and 2. Love was defeated by Steve Pate, 1 up (meaning the match was suffered a stumning 3-and-2 loss to already 3 down at that point, and he Eduardo Romero of Argentina, a player simply did not play well eaough to who was without a victory on the European tour last year. Montgomerie Craig Stadler, 5 and 3. And Els, the two- a lot of good shots at crucial times."

time U.S. Open champion who won the Nissan Open on Sunday, bogeyed No. 18 and lost to Paul Azinger, 1 up.

CARLSBAD, California — One by For Els, it was a difficult change of one, a stunning number of the world's fortune. Three days earlier, he was cell that golfers were rudely dismissed from the premises. Ernie Els atood near the chibbonse wearing a way smile that failed. Wednesday, he tried to explain his loss, and prepared to check out of his hotel.

don't want to take anything away from Paul, because he did what he had to do, "said Els. "But I had opportunities and I didn't take them. I didn't play near to the level that I wanted to. I came off such a high last week, but I just wasn't sharp. Mentally, I was awful. I wanted to do well here, and it's disappointing." With the match even, Els missed a 12-

foot putt for birdie at No. 17 that could have put him 1 up. Then at the par-4 No. 18, Bis hit a poor tee shot into the rough, followed by a short approach shot and a mediocre wedge shot that landed 15 feet past the pin just off the green. After Azinger lagged his 35-foot (11-meter) putt for birdie to within two feet, Els conceded par to Azinger, leaving Electric with his 15-foot putt to keep the match alive. But Els barely missed the putt, and Azinger breathed a sigh of relief.

"I thought it was in." Azinger said of Els's final putt. "Neither one of us really played that great. He wasn't on his game, and I was able to slip in there."

At least Els took his match to the last hole. Montgomerie was dominated by Stadler, the 1982 Masters champion, who took obvious pleasure in winning. The Stadler-Montgomerie match became tense on No. 13, when Stadler refused to concede Montgomerie's three-and-a-half foot putt for par. Montgomerie made the putt, but he was not happy, and Stadler didn't care.

There is no love lost in match play," said Stadler, who was to face John Huston on Thursday. "You've got to make that putt to stay in the match. I'm not going to give it to him. He can glare all be wants, I wouldn't give it to anybody else. Doesn't bother me."

.The most anticipated opening-round match was not that close, as Woods defeated Nick Faldo, 4 and 3. The most bizarre moment of that match occurred on No. 14, when a cellular phone rang as Faldo was in his downswing on his tee shot, Faldo flinched, and his pop-up shot hit a tree, and landed only about 70 decided on the last hole). Westwood meters in front of the tee. But Faldo was threaten Woods.

"It's nice to get a win under your belt, suffered another disappointment in a especially when you beat a true champion premier event when he was whipped by such as Nick Faldo," Woods said. "I hit

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SPORTS

JAN100 150

Rodman Comes and Harris Goes

On Rebounder's First Day With Team, Lakers Give Up on Coach

By Frank Litsky

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the remaking of the disappointing Los

the Lakers signed the eccentric rebound-ing star, they dismissed Del Harris in his fifth season as their head coach.

The coaching change was not sur-prising, especially because Harris had a reputation for being too easy no his

Last season, the Lakers reached the Western Conference finals, where they were swept by the Utah Jazz. With the demise of the Chicago Bulls, the Lakers were expected to be championship contenders in this lockout-shortened season,

hut they are floundering.

Their record is 6-6. In their last three games, all on the road, they lost to the Seattle Supersonics on Sunday, the Denver Nuggets on Monday and the Vancoover Grizzlies on Tuesday. Before Denver played the Lakers, the Nuggets had a 1-8 record. Vancouver bad not beaten the Lakers in 12 meetings.

Still, Jerry West, the Lakers' vice president for basketball operations, said "I wouldn't exactly say we were floundering."

West said he was not sure who would replace Harris. He said that Bill Bertka, a longtime assistant, would take over for Thursday night's game against the Los Angeles Clippers in Anaheim, California. West said that he would then choose Kurt Rambis or Larry Drew to be the coach for the rest of the season. Both are Lakers assistant coaches and former

Harris was in his 14th season as a head. Wednesday night handed the Jazz coach in the National Basketball As- only their second loss against nine son had six points. The pair comsociation, following four seasons with victories. the Houston Rockets and five with the Milwaukee Backs. At the age of 61, be has 8 556-461 record. He was 224-116 had 24 points before fooling out remained perfect against Canada. string injury, Joe Dumars put in 26 with the Lakers and had improved their with 4:35 left, and Nick Van Exel,

team is very important. We do feel like Angeles Lakers.

We have the talent here. I just feet the last

We have the talent here. I just feet the last

a photographer in the groin. He has worn
a dress at a book signing. He sat nut the
the Lakers signed the eccentric rebound-As recently as Tuesday night, Shaquille O'Neal said that Harris was not at

fault for the team's poor play. Predictably, the guard Nick Van Exel, traded after last season from the Lakers to Den-"It's kind of unfortunate that a good

guy like Del is blamed for our lack of cohesion, our lack of effort, our lack nf energy," O'Neal said. "However, one reason I came here is because of my faith in upper management. Van Exel, who never got along with Harris, called the coach "a cancer oo the

The Lakers' new coach may face oth-

er kinds of problems with Rodman, whose ability is unquestioned because he has been the NBA's leading re-

regular-season record in four consec- bounder in each of the past seven sea-New York Times Service

Wen' York Times Service

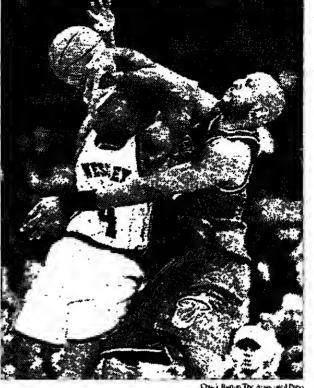
"The thing that makes it so awkward color aside, the 37-year-old Rodman has is that Del has been a friend for many a well-publicized history of challenging of the remaking of the disappointing Los team is very important. We do shall the

a dress at a book signing. He sat not the start of this season while tending to personal chores, such as finishing work on a movie.

Wednesday's schedule was typical Rodman — a Lakers practice in the afternoon and the Grammy Awards at

He signed a one-year contract with the Lakers. But because they are over the salary cap, they could pay him only the veterans' minimum of \$1 million, and because the season was shortened and he bas missed so many games he will earn less than \$500,000. His debut is scheduled for Friday night against the Clippers in Los Angeles.

At a news conference, Harris said that he had been looking forward to coaching



Alonzo Mourning of the Heat, right, blocking a shot by David Wesley of the Hornets during Miami's victory.

Auburn Is Taught Lopsided Lesson

The Associated Press

lot of lopsided games this season, found out what it's like to

lose by a hig margin.
Pat Bradley scnred 23 points and Chris Walker added a career-high 21 as Arkansas stunned the secondranked Tigers, 104-88, Wednesday night,

When they got a dnubleback," said Cliff Ellis, the

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Auburn coach. "I thnught our shot selection was poor." Auburn had been winning by an average of 23 points this season. The Tigers' naly previnus loss was at Kentucky, 72-62, on Jan. 20.

But Auhum (25-2, 13-2 Snutheastern Conference, allowing only 59 points a game, chuld not contain the Razorbacks (20-8, 9-6).

No. 1 Duke 96, DePaul 64 In Chicago, Trajan Langdan scored 25 points, Elton Brand had 20 points, 16 rebounds and 4 blocks and Duke (28-1) tied a school record with its tended its winning streak to seven 23d successive victory.

No. 5 Maryland 77, Clen powerful inside game with 20 points 60 Steve Francis scared a career-high 32 points and Maryland set a school record for regular-season victories. Francis also had five won its fifth straight and handed

dunks, eight rebounds and six host New Jersey its fifth successive steals for the host Terrapins 124-4, 12-3 Atlantic Chast Conference).

No. 8 St. John's 73, Notre Dame 53 in New York, Ty-

John's kept alive its hopes for Auburn, which has won a a share of the Big East reg-

ular-season title, The Red Storm (23-6, 14-3) is tied with Miami for second place in the conference, one game behind Connecticut. Troy Murphy, a freshman, scored 22 points for the Fight-

ing Irish (13-15, 7-10). No. 10 Ohio St. 63, No. 16 Wisconsin 54 Scoonie Penn scored a career-high 30 points, including nine dawn the stretch, as Ohin State beat visiting Wisconsin.

Ohio State (22-6), which finished last in the Big Ten with a 1-15 record last season. improved its league record to 12-3 and locked up the No. 2 seed behind the champion. Michigan State.

No. 13 Kentucky 88, Vanderbilt 63 Seniors Wayne Turner, Scott Padgett and Heshimu Evans each scored in dnuble figures in their final home game for Kentucky (22-7, 11-4 SEC). The Wildcats shot 53 percent from the field and held Vanderbilt (13-14, 4-11) in 33 percent.

No. 19 Florida 89, S. Carofina 61 Kenyan Weaks hit four 3-pointers and Flurida conunued its late-season shoot-

Florida (19-6, 10-5 SEC) finished 17 for 35 from behind the 3-point are against visiting Suuth Carolina (7-20, 2-13). No. 20 Indiana 70, Illinois 64 Luke Recker scored 22 points,

including back-to-back 3-pointers in the second half, as Îndiana wnn at Illinois.

Indiana (2)-9, 8-7) set a Big Ten record with its seventh Duncan were unstoppable, combin-ing for 47 points and 30 rebounds. each scored 19 points as St. overtime game this season.

Resurgent Nuggets Show Jazz How to Swing who scored 21 of his 23 in the host Pacers extended their unbeaten after a five-game losing streak.

worst team last year, got off to a 1-g start this season. Then the Lakers and Jazz, considered two of the Hardaway was frigid and Nick league's best clubs, went to Denver, and the Nuggets beat them both.

"I don't think it's strange," said Karl Malone, the Utah forward, after Denver's 97-87 victory on

The Jazz had things under control until Antonio McDyess, who

The Denver Nuggets, the NBA's second balf, led a comeback. Den-streak against Thronto and Vanver beat the Lakers on Monday. Calties 111, Magic 79 Penny

NBA ROUNDUP

Anderson wasn't much better as Orlando was routed in Boston. Hardaway didn't score and Anderbined for 54 points the last time Orlando played the Celtics.

Rik Smits scored 22 points as the

couver to 19. Indiana beat Toronto for the 13th consecutive time and is behind Alonzo Mourning, who led a 6-0 against Vancouver. and 17 rebounds in Charlatte. None

76ors 94, Kings 81 Allen Iverson,

who despite pregame hype was rarely matched man-to-man against the rookie sensation Jason Williams, had 36 points and 10 assists for host Philadelphia as he thoroughly outplayed his Sacrameoto counterpart.

Pistons 89, Cavaliers 73 in just Pacers 104, Reptors 84 Indiana his second game back from a hampoints. Detroit has won three of four

loss as Walt Williams scored nine of his 22 points in the fourth quarter. Spurs 99, SuperSonics 81 in San Antonio, David Robinson and Tim

85 points during the streak.

nf Miami's opponents has reached

Trail Blazers 94, Nots 85 Portland

26 (Modana, Letdinen) 2. Nashville, Brunerite 9 (Krivokrusov, Romana) (pp). Third Period: Nashville, Krivokrusov 19 (Bordelcon) Shots su god: Nashville 5-12-8—25. O. 4-7-7—18. Geotles: Npshville, Vokoun, D-Turel. Boffato.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL NBA STANDINGS

9 .182. .6

51, Boston 32 (Wolker, K.Anderson 67.

Taronto 12 19 28 25-84 Indiana 34 16 26 24-104 T.W.Carter 10-22 8-8 28; isonits 11-10-0 22 Rebeards—Toronto 52 (Willis 13). Indiana 47 (D.Davis 9). Assists—Toronto 6.

1)-19 0-4 25. Reheands—Portland: 58 Schools 12, New Jersey 46 C.W. Warms 15. Assists—Portland: 22 (Stoudomire 6). New Jersey 18 (Murdock 6).

Jacacy 10 (Altroock e).
SeetHe 27 29 14 26 87
See Austroin 24 22 25 27 99
St. Poylon 6-10 6-10 20/ S.A.I. Robirmon 10 14.9-14.29, Rehetender—Seattle 57 (Schrenn) RL. San Antonio 57, (Robinson 17). Astists—Seattle 17 (Paylon 8), Son Antonio 20 (Johnson 7). Takai touts—Seattle 25, Son

West Indies Board XI 55

Whitch ended in a draw.

ASSILLET AT

SEL LARGE AT

SEL LARGE AT

THURSDAY IN COLORS

(Van Exel 7).

Assists—Utoh 21 (Stockton 5), Derver 10

(Van Exel 7).

U.S. COLLEGE SCORES

| Indiana 47 (D.Davis 9), Assists—Toroma 4, Indiana 23 (Jockson 8), Total foots—Toroma 4, Indiana 23 (Jockson 8), Total foots—Toroma 4, Indiana 23 (Jockson 8), Total foots—Toroma 5, Indiana 23 (Jockson 8), Total foots—Toroma 6, No. 1, Dulin (23-1) del. DuPout 96-64, No. 2, Ausbran (25-2) lest fo Aritics 104-88, No. 5, Morphand (24-6) del. Clemson 77-60, No. 2, Ausbran (25-2) del. No. 14 Wisc. 63-64, No.

Charlette M: Mourning 7-16-6-11 20; C: Phillip 7-13-4 Mismount 7-16-6-11 20; C: Phillip 7-17-6-11 20; C: Phillip 7-17-6-11

No. 11 Teams Tech (24-2) def. Col'do 83-71. No. 23 Kanses (21-7) def. Old. State 79-72, OT.

CRICKET W.LIEBTH BOARD XI VE. ARSTRALIA FINAL DAY, 3-DAY TOUR
WEDNESDAY IN ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA
Australia 156 and 209-4 declared.
West Indies Board XI 55 and 121-4.

ASIAN TEST GUARPIONSHIP SES LANCA VI. INSIA 2D DAY, S-DAY TEST THURSDAY IN COLONISO, SEE LANKA

ICEHOCKEY

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

First Period: P-Tocchet 22 INtromilners, Roenick) (pp). 2. P-Tacchuk 22 (Stepleton, Corney) Second Period: W-Bellows 11 (Svejkovsky) Third Period: None, Starts on goat: P-B-4.—16. W-2-11-6—20. Goalius; P-Khabbutin, W-Kokija.

Cordina
Toronto
First Period: Cordina, Primesu 26
(Shepperd) Second Period: Cordina,
Kapanen 17 (Primeau Shepperd) (sp), 3. TSundin 27 (Karportisce, Therros) Third
Period: T-McCauley 8 (McAllister, Johnson)
Descripte: None, Sherts on yeal: Catolina 1313-41-31, T- 12-8-10-1-31. Goalies:
Carolina, irbe, T-Joseph.
Pidiadelphie

1 2 1—

Taroide

W. L. T. Pris er (Bayis, Burks) (pp). There revises r. 27 22 11 65 158 151 'Desjardies 12 (Britad Annous Bathych) (pp). 22 27 15 59 147 150 'T, F-Panish 16 (Kvesha, Medianby) (pp). 21 24 15 29 117 213 F-Kazion 11, (nn). Shefts en yest: P. 10-7. 10-27. F. 8-10-6-24. Geoffes: P. Verblesbewick, F-Borks.

Defroit

First Period: D-Shandhai 22 (Yzerman, Lidatem) Second Period: D-Fedorov 17 (Brown, Halmstrom) Third Period: LA. Audorte 11 (Lapertiere) 4 LA. Bhule 5 (Prunger, Strunger) Overtimes 5. LA. Robitalie 31 (Audotte, Shumpel) (pp). Shats as goots: LA. 15-8-14-3-40. D-17-7-7-26. Googles: LA.-Fiser, D-Osgood.

Cricage 2 0 1 9
First Period: C-Gamour 16 (Chellos) Second
Period: S.L.-Mactanus 17 (Turgeon, Demitra)
Third Period: C-Zhannav 12 (Charyk, Zholek) Shorts on goots: C-7-5-4-16. S.L. 10-9-7-26. Googles: C-Pitzputrick. S.L.-McLearan.

gody) (pp), 8, sm Jose gody (v. Berluzzi 9 (Aucoling Godilese P. Scochardo Sected Period: S.J.-Korolyuk 6 (Surm. Murphy) (pp), Third Period: Nohe. 1 1 9 6–2 9–13. S.J.-16-9-14-1—40, Geoffre: V. Srow. S.J.-Vernon. GOLF

WORLD MATCH PLAY

OPPER BRACKET:
Typer Woods def, Nick Foldo, 4 and 3.
Bob Turpy def. Tom Worksm. 4 and 4.
Cruty Parry def. Jesper Parnenk, 1-up.
Slewart Claik def. Payne Slewart. 3 and 2.
Vilgy Singsh def. Rocco Mediate. 5 and 3.
Beechard 1 annox def. Brust Ernox. 4 and 1. 128 160 Fr.— A. BORDES: C. PRESSURIES.

McLentrum.

Bernhard Langer def. Brash, 4 and 2.

Nest Price 0 1 1—2 Nick Price def. Franke Minoza. 4 and 2.

2 0 8—2 Defice.

9 1 8—1 Jeff Maggert def. Fred Funk, 2-op.

9 1 8—1 Seve Porte def. Davis Love III. 1-up. Fred Couples def. Dudley Hart. 2-up. Scott Hoch def. Ian Waasnam. 3 and 2. Greg Noman def. John Cook. 3 and 2. Phil Mickelson def. Joe Dzyki, 3 and 2.

Bottisis

Catigary

Catigary

Pirst Peried: B-Brawn 16 (Grasck, Woofley) 2 C-Sharitt 11 (Bassen, Fleury)
Second Period: None, Third Period: C-Iginia
22 (Wiemer) 4. B., Woofley 5 (Word, Peca)
Overfinate, None, Shorts an goals: B. 10-7-9.

2-72, C-13-8-13-1-35, Goalles: B-Roloson,
C-Brottmuttle. LOWER BRACKET: David Duvol def. Stephen Leaney, 2 and 1. Poul Aringer sef, Emie Els, 1-up. Loren Roberts del. Hai Suiton, 5 and 4. Justin Leanard det, Misuel A. Simenez, 4 and 2. Shigeki Marryama det, Steve Stricker, 3 and 2. Michael Bradley det, Mark O'Mears, 4 and 2.

Editorran

First Period: Nove, Securid Period: Nove,
Thirst Period: Nove, Securid Period: Nove,
Thirst Period: A-Selanne 32 (Karlyo) 2, E.
Michael Bradley del, Mark O'Meora, 4 and 2
Marroy 12 (Folloan, Sirayth) 2, A-Karlyo 26
(Rucchin) Shers on goat: A-5-9-10—24, E.
(Rucchin) Shers on goat: A-Roussel.

E-10-17—33, Geoffes: A-Roussel.

E-10-17—33, Geoffes: A-Roussel. Crain Shutter del. Cotin Montgomerie. 5 and 3. 1 0 0 0-1 John Huston def. Bob Estes, 3 and 2. 0 1 0 0-1 Points Sjokand def. Jim Furyt. 5 and 2. Carles Franco det. Mark Colcovecable, 2 and 1.

NORDICSKIING

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS THURSDAY IN RAMSAU, AUSTRIA

THURSDAY IN RAMSAU, AUSTRIA

WOMERN'S AVS-KAR BELAY

1. Russia. 53 minutes. 59 seconds: 2. Itoly,
1 minute, 24.5. behind: 3. Germany, 207.8. 4.
Norsoy, 210.8. 5. Switz. 225.8. 6. Ukraines.
2:7.0. 7. Czoch Rep. 2:38.5; 8. Sweden.
2:80.2: 9. France, 2:38.4; 10. Estonia. 3:28.2.

240.3: 9. France, 2-38.4: 10. Estimica, 2-28.2. COMMENTED BY BUT?

1. Finland ski jumping 243.6 points/cross-country 49 minutes 34.2 seconda; 2. Norway 270.64/81.59, 1:147. behind: 3. Russia 233.5/80:19.4:18-3.2; 4. France 225.6/49-27.5:18-33.8; 3. Jupan 230.5/50:36.7: 2-30.5: 6. Germany 277.9/50:27.1 2-37.9; 7. Austria, 221.6/50:41.6: 3-34.4: 8. Creech Republic 210.5/50:12.3 4:20.1: 9. Switzerland 215.4/51:57.3 5:21.7; 10. United Shares 195.6/50:40.1: 6.25.9 Did not finish: thuly.

SOCCER FA CUP FIFTH BOUND Blackburn (L. Newcostle)

Derby & Huddersfield Tottenhom & Leeds 0 SPANISH CUP

QUANTERFINAL, RETURN LEG Espanyol I, Allefted Modrid 4 (Affelten with 2-2 on organicate) Opportivo win 2-1 on apprepare) Malacelle Alleganicate) (Valencia win 7-5 on pagregate) teat Madrid 1 Rocing Santander ((Real Madrid win 7-2 on aggreg DUTCH FIRST OTVISTO

Feyencord 1, RKC Wastwijk 0 NAC Brevis & Graatschap Daetine artanomase regenour as; vincese
Amhem 43: Rodo J.C. Kerkrade 37: Twente
Enschede 36: Ajan Amsterdom 33: Heerenveen 33: PSV Eindhoven 33: AZ Altamour 34:
Willem II Tilburg 31: Uhrecht 29: NEC Nigmegen 28: Fortuna Sittard 24: Combour
Leeuwauden 21: MVV Massiricht 21: Graafrechten Deutschein 29: South Portection 15:

TRANSITIONS EASERALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE
FLORIDA — Signed RHP Braden Loadet.
RHP Justin Speler, RHP Netson Lora. LHP
Brent Billingsley, C. Romon Costro and DF
Justine Jones to 1-year contracts.

KANSAS CITY—Signed OF Curlis Pride to
minor league contract.

M.Y.YANKEES—Signed Joe Torre, manager.

to 2-year contract extension through the 2001
560001.

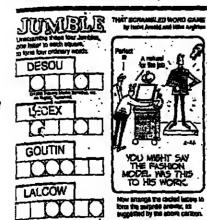
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

LA LAKERS—Fired Oel Harris, coach. SACRAMENTO—Signed C Scot Policed.

DENNIS THE MENACE



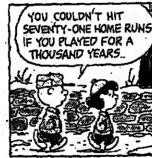
"THOTE IT'S NOT MY SWEET ONE!" THIS TOOTH IS



AMERICA TOOTH PYLON JAUNTY CORPS How the Google bull proter his after a day's work - JUST PEACHY



PEANUTS



GARFIELD

BEETLE BAILEY

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SIR

JOM DANTS 226

GOOD!



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WITH JOE RUTH.



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CALVIN AND HOBBES







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NON SEQUITUR







APPRECIATION

Remembering Siskel

By Janet Mastin New York Times Service

NEW YORK — It didn't thumb-pointing assessments take much to draw Gene and sharp disputes, they Siskel into heated debate oo vastly outshined their imitatsome film-related matter. All ors and set the tone for armyou had to do was get him chair film talk everywhere. started. Then his eothusiasm hours. I remember him glee-fully backing Jack Valeoti, his favorite films last year: president of the Motion Picture Association of America, Demme's deeply inoving 'Beinto a corner one night at the loved, a tribute to generations Cannes International Film of African-American women Festival about eight years ago, who survived slavery, fell vicarguing tenaciously that a new tim to the pointless hoopla NC-17 ratings category would be more useful than the old, onerous X. The only way Valenti could escape was by promising to continue the con-

despite his very public illness, handled that encounter with When can drivers didn't ask courtesy as unwavering as his doggedness. In a profession would ever break even." doggedness. In a profession not known for affability, he seemed the most gracious critic around. Eveo wheo engaging in critical fisticuffs with Roger Ebert, his frieod and foil in a partnership that turned televised film criticism into that could be eclectic despite

critical juggemant began, film reviewing changed as dramatically as filmmaking he, along with Ebert, must be did. These two public per- admired for displaying coursonalities became such celeb-rities in their own right that the nine months since Siskel film studios placed full-page commemorative ads in Vari-

ety after Siskel's death. toward a more democratic Jerry Springer's lurid "Ring-critical universe. Their prom-master," "In 30 years of refilms were newly available on used the word 'meodacious,'

film awareoess, not to say movie mania, swept into pop-olar culture. With concise,

They made the most of this took over, whether on the film fever while also recog-page, on television or after nizing its perils. As Siskel wrote memorably of one of

Bad News: Jonathan surrounding weekend box office statistics that compared a three-bour slavery drama with a 97-minute horror picture ("Bride of Chucky"). A jour-Versation at some later date.

It was no surprise that withholding of information, withholding of information, but I'm against the release of box-office statistics. Ob, how the good of days

Siskel, crioc for The Chicago Tribune since 1969, will be remembered for his warm persona and for thumb-raising such lively spectator sport, he showed a convivial ease.
In more than two decades since the Siskel and Ebert his show's mainstream popularity. (His top five films of 1994: "Hoop Dreams," "Pulp Fiction," "Ed Wood."

32 Sbort Films about Glenn Gould," "Quiz Show.") And underwent brain surgery yet did his best to carry on.

He was in top form only He and Ebert led the way months ago when he said of inence came at a time when viewing movies I haven't videotape and a new breed of hut that streak is now over.

A Struggle to Expose an Avant-Garde Talent

By Joan Dupont

MSTERDAM — Here they are - the erotic draped nudes, the surrealist self-exposures, and haute couture cover-girls floating along-side a hideous death-head collage of Hitler. Strange bedfellows, set in Amsterdam's Ashkenazi syn-agogue complex where the Jewish Historical Museum is exhibiting "A Fetish for Beauty — Avant-Garde Photography of Erwin Blu-

menfeld." The exhibition, created at the Barbican Art Gallery in London by William Ewing (author of a book with the same title), has traveled to Zurich, Lausanne, Berlin and Paris. The Amsterdam opening was special, because this is where the cosmopolitan Blumenfeld, who was born in Berlin and died in Rome, began his life as a photographer.

'I doo't think my father ever set foot in a synagogue," said Yorick Blumenfeld, "and he had a love-hate relationship with the Dutch." The photographer's youngest soo contributed pictures from his own collection to the show as did his collection to the show, as did his brother, Henry, and his sister, Lisette. "Each city has focused oo another aspect of our father's life. Amsierdam is the most important after Berlin because he spent 17 years here, and you can see that from the start, he was an artist."

The show, which runs until April
25, ends on a portrait of the artist in
Amsterdam's red-light district, one for someone who had prostituted himself to fashion and commerce. In that savage tone, Blumeofeld

chronicled his years of struggle and ascension in a 1969 autobiography ("Jadis et Daguerre" in French; to be published in Eoglish as "Eye to 1"). Born in 1897, a turn-of-theceotury child reared in Berlio bourgeois comfort, he was handed his first camera at age 10.

went insane with syphilis and died ther, Georges - "a prima donna"

bankrupt. "My father had to work as an appreotice instead of going to

A friend of the artists Oskar Kokoschka and Paul Citroen, Blumeofeld fell in love with Citroen's cousin Lena, who was from a Durch Jewish family. An ambu-lance driver io World War I, be deserted the army to set op shop selling ladies' bandbags oo Kalverstraat, Amsterdam's chic shop-

ping avenue. He sent Tristan Tzara a selfportrait collage proclaiming him-self president of the Dutch Dadaist

The Dadaist made a miserable husinessman, but he struck gold when he discovered a secret darkroom in the shop, complete with a camera and equipment to make en-largements. This is where be did bis first experiments, multiple exposures, special effects with mirrors and ground glass; be worked like an alchemist to achieve surreal ef-

He concocted a dream-like vision, inspired by Roger van de Wey-den's virgins, of a swooning woman, swathed in cloth. His wife and children were models; Tara Twain, a Hollywood actress, posed for his first published photo; for another there was Erika Mann, daughter of the writer, and Genevieve Rouault, daughter of the painter. He had his

of his mocking self-exposures. Red, taleot — it rolled right off him." he told Yorick, was a fitting color - In 1933, wheo Hitler came to power, the photographer made a paste-up of the dictator — a skullhead, blood dripping from the eye sockets. (Teo years later, the U.S. Air Force dropped flyers of the collage over Germany.) The rise of Hitler marked the end of his Dutch Hitler marked the end of his Dutch wood nymph and Carmeo, Rodin's period, he liquidated the shop and model for "The Kiss," in the nude left for Paris, without passport, money, or wife.

Genevieve Rouault introduced Yorick related that bis grand- him to Parisian society. Blumenfeld father, an umbrella manufacturer, had little love for Geoevieve's fa- artist."



Erwin Blumenfeld's "Self-Portrait," taken circa 1943.

Henri Matisse. He also photographed the artist Leonor Fini as a as a dilapidated old woman,

"We were very poor because the French never paid," Yorick said, "but they took him seriously as an

Cecil Beatoo arranged for an in-

who posed for him along with terview at Vogue, and in 1939, Bruno Walter, François Mauriac, Blumenfeld did three Vogue portfolios of veiled beauces in striped organdies and duchess satins by Balenciaga, and the famous Tour

Eiffel shot, with a model poised like a hird in flight, dressed by Lucien Lalong. "He poured all his knowledge of fashion and textiles from his early Amsterdam days in-

to the portfolios."

from New York, where he clinched a contract with Harper's Bazant. when war was declared. "Mother was fine because she was Dutch. but he was an enemy alien so we were confined to a kind of house arrest in Vezelay, his son said: "The kids threw stones and called me a spy's son, a dirty Jew. Once France was occupied, the Germans went after him because of those anti-Hitler photos." He was in-

terned in a series of camps for foreigners and miraculously released. The family got out through Mar-seille, but the ship, held up in Cas-ablanca, was infested by rats and pestilence. The children fell sick:

Yorick almost died of the plague.
Blumenfeld's 'career really
took off in New York.' Yorick said. "Harpers embraced him and he became one of the highest-paid

photographers io America." Not a tall man, no beauty, the photographer had success with women. "I don't think he had relationships with the models. Yorick said.

Advertisers solicited him, as did friends like Elizabeth Arden and Helena Rubinstein, and companies like L'Oreal, but others turned away, finding him difficult and expensive. He had slack periods, dark

Ever in control, Blumenfeld planned his own death on July 4, 1969. "He had been sick and he wanted to go fast. He provoked a massive heart attack." His son remembers him as "an amazing man, with charisma, wit and great natural intelligence.

Yorick said: "He could be heartless, quite focused on himself, yet looking back, he was an exceptionally capable father who had

ambitions for all of us." Lisette married an artist: Henry is a physicist; Yorick is a writer and editor at Thames and Hudson where be directs a collection, Prospects for Tomorrow. This spring, he is bringing out "The Naked and the Veiled," a book on Blumen-feld's nudes, "his finest, most orig-Blumenfeld had just returned inal work.

PEOPLE

THE 23-year-old soul diva Lauryn Hill won five Grammys, a record for a female artist, with the first hip-hop a female artist, with the first hip-hop recording to be oamed album of the year, "The Miseducation of Lauryo Hill," at the 41st Annual Grammy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles. Hill, whose alhum mixes rhythm-and-blues, gospel, pop and rap, also received a Grammy for best new artist. Hill's five Grammy supposed by one the number won by surpassed by one the number won by Carule King for ber "Tapestry" album in 1971. The two other top awards oo Wednesday night weot to "My Heart Will Go On," written by James Horner Will Go On," written by James Horner their beach alone. The makers of the and Will Jennings and sung by Celine Dion, which won record of the year and song of the year. The song, from the unsinkable "Titanic" sound track, also unsinkable "Titanic" sound track, also of Avalon to inject new life into the aging won an award for best pop vocal pershow. But at a near-riotous town hall formance. The other hig winners were also female, including Alanis Moris-shouted down the show's executive prosette for best rock song and best female ducer, Gregory Bonoan. "We will not rock vocal performance for "Uniogo where we are clearly not wanted,"

named best rock album. Madonna's reacted by saying, "Baywatch' should Laureo were not included in the suit. I be encouraged to film bere, given the Dixie Chicks' "Wide Open Spaces" best country album. Erie Clapton rebest country album. Erie Clapton rea result of the series being screened to ceived the award for best male pop vocal more than one billioo viewers.' performance for "My Father's Eyes."

The scantily clad cast of "Baywatch" may oot move to Australia after all. Surfers and citizens from a seaside suburb north of Sydney turned angrily California beach series, which is seen in 147 countries, had hoped to change location to the small Australian community

did not give reasons for the breakup of his 25-year marriage with Lady Rothschild, who was born Victoria Schott. The couple have two sons and a daughter.

The cartoonist Garry Trudeau returned this week to a favorite "Doonesbury" story line: sweatshop conditions at foreign factories that make goods for U.S. retailers. He cited specific manufacturers vited," and Shania Twain for best country female singer and best country song for "You're Still the One." Sheryl cores on and David Hasselhof. The top tour-son and Ralph their kicks from car crashes.

A court in Montpellier, France, has ordered the French rap singer Didier Morville to serve three mooths in jail for the banking dynasty, has separated from assaulting a flight attendant and hreak-his wife. The 67-year-old banker who is incharged Morville alice leaves the single and the second Morville alice leaves the single and the second Morville alice leaves the second Morville alice leaves the second Morville alice leaves the second more than his wife. The 67-year-old banker, who is chairman of N.M. Rothschild & Sons. the group NTM, attacked the woman in a hotel last year. The victim suffered damage to her face that kept her off the job for 12 days, NTM has already faced legal action for lyrics that urged violence

against the police.

The director David Crooenberg, whose film "Crasb" prompted both boos and raves at the Cannes film festival in 1996, will head the jury this year, forced labor and made one the butt of a going to be iotoxicating and thrilling, the Canadian filmmaker said. Crooen berg woo the Grand Prize in 1996 for "Crash." which showed lovers getting



Lauryn Hill with her five awards, a Grammy record for a female singer.



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